Ancient Fraternity

OF

Merchant Taylors of Bristol.

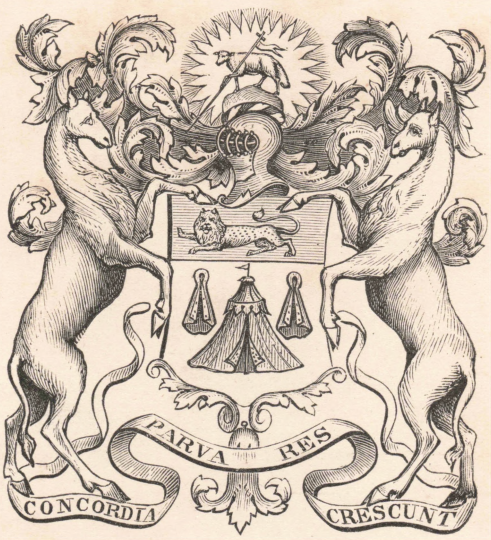
Patron Saint.

Some Account of the

Ancient Fraternity

OF

Merchant Taylors of Bristol



WITH TRANSCRIPTS OF ORDINANCES AND OTHER DOCUMENTS.

BY

FRANCIS F. FOX,

Late Master of the Merchant Venturers, and One of the Trustees of the Merchant Taylors.

1880.

FIFTY COPIES PRINTED FOR PRIVATE CIRCULATION BY J. WRIGHT & CO., BRISTOL.

No. .....

CLIFTON, *May*, 1880.

MY DEAR SIR,

To you is entirely due whatever credit attaches to the compilation of this work. You originated the idea of examining the records of the Merchant Tailors' Guild in Bristol, and the materials which the Committee placed in our hands were so ample, that even now a much longer and more detailed history might be written. Your judgment selected the information most worthy of notice; and in dedicating the following pages to you, I would not only pay you a tribute to which you have a peculiar claim, but would express, in some degree, my hope, that the work may survive as a memorial of our friendship.

Should the perusal of its past history lead to the resuscitation of this ancient Guild, with all its former influence and importance, and with less of its former exclusiveness, our labours will not have been in vain; and that such a result may be attained, is the sincere hope of

Yours very faithfully,

FRANCIS F. FOX.

TO JOHN TAYLOR,

Bristol Museum and Library.

THE revival of interest in mediæval fraternities will serve as an apology for printing the following documents, which represent a typical example of a combined religious and craft guild or mistery of the time of Richard II. It fortunately happens that the original vellum book of the Guild ordinances of that period is still among the archives of the extinct company, together with the originals of the successive Charters of the association.

The antiquated and diversified spelling of the original documents has been retained, though it is feared that by the retention the printed form will appear forbidding to any but the student of mediæval manners, for whom however this book is chiefly intended.

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Merchant Taylor's Hall.

Merchant Tailors' Guild, Bristol.

TRADE UNIONS are by no means of modern origin, and if they are to be condemned wholesale, the wisdom of our forefathers must suffer some abatement of respect. There are, however, important differences between the trade unions of the nineteenth century and the craft guilds of mediæval days. The defensive attitude between men and masters; or rather, the mutual antagonism of the employers and the employed, is entirely modern, and in the earlier and purer form of trade unions would have been as inconsistent as for the ranks of an army to combine against the officers, or the officers against the ranks. Masters and men, instead of being, as now, divided forces, were originally one body united in the defence of their oneself. Instead of being on the monstrous plan of a mutinous army, the earlier guilds were rightly named *fraternities*, and the domestic charities of the common household were the type of their constitution. Nor were the interests to be cherished by masters and men together only material interests. A writer in the *Fortnightly Review*

professes to find a distinction between what Mr. Toulmin Smith calls the "social" and the "trade guilds" of the close of the fourteenth century. "We may say broadly," he affirms, that the former were the originals of our friendly, the latter of our trade societies. Separate writs — of which Mr. Toulmin Smith gives the text—were thus issued for returns from the former, which are simply termed guilds and brotherhoods, and from the latter, which are described as 'mysteries and crafts.'* It happens at least with regard to the Merchant Tailors' Guild of Bristol, which presented the usual features of a mediæval trade brotherhood, that it rarely in the original ordinances, A.D. 1392, is called a craft or mystery, but most repeatedly a fraternity, a society, in fact of men and women, or as they more affectionately term themselves brethren and sistren.

The convenient title of Merchant Tailors is a survival from as many as twenty varying designations of the same collective body of craftsmen. The original title, A.D. 1392, is the "Fraternity of St. John the Baptist." In one large book belonging to the Company, and containing a record of its proceedings from a very early period, the ordinances are preceded by this heading in French, "A l'honnour de Dieu et Notre Dame et Seint John le Baptist," which ordinances are said to be made and established in the "Fraternity of Tailors of Brystowe of the Gild of Saint John the Baptiste" (en la fraternance de Taillours de Brystoye del Gilde de Seint John le Baptiste). In the original oath of initiation of any brother or sister it is called the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist, and said to be instituted in the worship of God and of our Lady Saint Marie, and of Saint John the Baptist, and of All Hallows, or All Saints; while in the oath of the masters and wardens it is called the "craft of St. John the Baptist, and the craft of Tailors." In 1477, the company is described as the "Art, Business, and Mystery of Tailors;" in 1515, the "Society of Saint John the Baptist;" in 1548, the "Tailors' Craft;" in 1551, the "Mystery, Business, and Art of Tailors;" in 1553, the "Mystery and Craft of Tailors;" in 1575, the "Craft and Company of Tailors;" in 1577, the "Company of Tailors;"

* J. M. Ludlow, "Fortnightly Review," Vol. vi. 390.

in 1578, the "Craft, Company, and Occupation of the Tailors." In the oath for the Queen's Majesty Elizabeth, which is undated, we first find "Merchant Tailors," or rather the "Mystery and Fellowship of the Company of Merchant Tailors," which, in 1589, appears as the "Society, Brotherhood, and Company of Merchant Tailors;" in 1595, it is called the "Company, and Society of Tailors;" in 1640, the "Company and Fellowship of the Mystery of Merchant Taylors of the City of Bristol;" in 1647, "Society and Company of Merchant Tailors;" in 1657, the "Craft and Mystery of Merchant Taylors;" in 1662, "Company and Corporation of Merchant Taylors;" in 1685, the "Society and Fellowship of Merchant Taylors," in which form it repeatedly occurs in the future; and finally the "Company of Merchant Tailors."

England is now one vast city wherein all men whether natives or foreigners may freely go to and fro and buy and sell, and worship or refrain from worship. In the middle ages the cities or boroughs were compact and insulated masses of population, with not only powers of self-government and self-taxation, but with privileges which enabled them to exclude strangers as jealously and effectually as from a feudal castle. The battlemented and bastioned walls and portcullised gates of a city were a type of that city's internal constitution, each of the many guilds and fraternities with the craft it represented, being as close as the Macedonian phalanx against intruders, free trading being no more tolerated than free thinking, one being as much a social as was the other a religious heresy. Even an inhabitant had no more self-granted power to pass from one parish to settle in another than a stranger would now have to enter our own private doors and sit at our firesides without invitation.

A few years ago a work was published entitled *Agriculture on Christian Principles*. I am not aware of the distinction between agriculture practised on Christian and non-Christian systems; but it is certain that the Guild of Merchant Tailors was established on Christian and therefore religious principles. Were it not to the injury of Leeds, a town our mediæval clothiers had never heard of, it might be almost wished that the

like principles were again conveyed into the manufacture of cloth: shoddy and devil's dust would now be as absent from the Sunday coat of Hodge as from the dress of Chaucer's squire which was embroidered

> "As it were a mede
> Alle fulle of freshe flowers white and rede."

It was about the time of the setting out of the Canterbury Pilgrims from the Tabard in Southwark that the fraternity of Merchant Tailors was established in Bristol, before the institution here of which guild, we are told in the ordinances—"the craft of Taillours in this honourable town had been and was still greatly slandered in many parts of the realm, insomuch that any Ribald or other person of the said craft not skilled in the art of clothing, or not belonging to the business, or one who steals the cloth entrusted to him to the great slander of the town and the craft, and to the great damages of the people in default that good ordinance is not made in this town as in London, York and other towns of the realm, in the which cities and towns it is ordained and established that no man of the craft of tailors shall be received into the franchise or freedom of the craft to cut any cloth unless he be first presented by the master and wardens of the craft to the mayor of the town as an able and skilful person in his craft. Therefore it is ordained and established by the Mayor and all the Common Council of the said town of Bristowe that from henceforth no man of the craft of tailors shall be enfranchised in the foresaid town unless the master and the four wardens of the said craft of Saint John the Baptist in Bristowe for the time shall witness to the Mayor, the Sheriff, and all the Court that he is a person able, of good condition and of good name and full perfect of his craft. The which person so presented and enabled, by the advice of the Mayor and bailif for the time being shall be received, paying his fine and his fees. And that no such person so enfranchised hold his craft but in open place and not in chambers nor in corners. And that no servant of the craft shall hold a 'prentice nor servant under him unto the time that he be enfranchised, and if any so do

that any master of the craft having knowledge thereof shall warn the Mayor; and the same man by the advise of the master and wardens may deliver the 'prentice or servant to a master of the craft to be taught unto the time that his first master be enfranchised within the town."

Mr. Toulmin Smith is anxious to have it believed that the religious element of the guilds was not fundamental but "incidental only." Guilds, he asserts, were not "in any sense superstitious foundations; that is they were not founded, like monasteries and priories, for men devoted to what were deemed religious exercises. Priests might belong to them, and often did so, in their private capacities. But the Guilds were lay bodies, and existed for lay purposes, and the better to enable those who belonged to them rightly and understandingly to fulfil their neighbourly duties as free men in a free state."* On the other hand Mr. Brentano to whose subtle disquisition on the origin of Guilds Mr. Toulmin Smith's remarks form part of the Introduction, says, "If I may be allowed to form a conjecture in this case, I would rather say that the religious brotherhoods of the middle ages, and as they still exist in Catholic countries, have their origin in a connection with monasticism, and in an imitation of it on the part of men who, though wishing to accumulate the greatest possible amount of merit for the next world, yet would not renounce the present; and that this origin is to be sought in Southern lands, in which Christianity and monasticism were first propagated."

In the most literal sense the Guild of Merchant Tailors, Bristol, was fundamentally and structurally religious, and would therefore serve as no instance in confirmation of Mr. Smith's theory of the secular origin of the mediæval trade fraternities.

By an original royal charter with the great seal appended, yet preserved in the monuments of the society dated the 22nd year of Richard II., that king recites that "John Thorpe and John Sherp, Burgesses of our town of Bristol, had founded a certain chapel within our said town in honour of God and of *Saint John the Baptist*, to the intent to find there a chaplain

* English Guild, Intro. xxviii.

to celebrate Divine service for ever for the good estate of ourself and of our beloved Queen consort while we live, and for our souls when we go hence, also for the souls of our progenitors and of all the faithful departed, and for the Brethren of a certain Fraternity, there for ever to be founded, ordained, and incorporated." The King grants license to the said John, and John to found, ordain, and incorporate a certain Fraternity, for ever to endure within the said chapel to the honour of God and Saint John the Baptist, and appoint a keeper *(custodian)* of the same Fraternity. And that they, who shall be keeper and brethren of the Fraternity, may elect by their common consent a keeper of the same Fraternity, on every occasion as they shall please to see good. Also to purchase lands, etc., to the value of 100s. a year, for the sustentation of the chaplain and his successors, and the same being so bought might hold to their said keeper and brethren and their successors for ever for the sustentation of the chaplain. And, moreover, that the said Fraternity may have and enjoy their endowment, with all good usages, and allowable, and proper ordinances, without let or hindrance of ourself, or our heirs, or ministers, the statute of Mortmain and other statutes, notwithstanding. King Henry IV., by letters patent, May 20th, 1400, after reciting, by Inspeximus, the Grant of the 22nd Richard II. accepts, approves, and confirms, to the brethren and their successors the privileges of the earlier charter.

On the 1st May, 1401, John Thorp and John Sherp, brethren of the Fraternity of *Saint John Baptist of Bristol*, declare that as well by the License and Grant of King Richard II., dated 16th October, 22nd Richard, as by grant and confirmation of King Henry IV., dated at Westminster, the twentieth May, in the first year of his reign, they had built and founded a chapel in the Church of Saint Owen, in Bristol, to the honour of God and Saint John Baptist, with the assent and agreement of all the brothers and sisters of the aforesaid Fraternity, and had put Robert Gloucester into the real and personal profession thereof, to celebrate divine service therein every day at the altar of St. John Baptist. And, that by virtue of the said letters patent, they had ordained and incorpo-

rated the Fraternity aforesaid, in the chapel named by the consent and assent of all the brothers and sisters aforesaid, in the chapel of St. John Baptist, assembled to the honour of God and of John Baptist. And that the said Fraternity, so founded by God's grace, might for ever endure with all good usages and ordinances, allowable and proper, for the said Fraternity, which ordinances are stated to be contained in a schedule annexed to the present document. No schedule, however, is annexed, but in two old books belonging to the Tailors' Company are these very ordinances.

It is first ordained that no man or woman be "underfange" (*underfange* is a Chaucerian word for *received*) or admitted into the Fraternity of St. John Baptist without the assent of the keeper and master and the wardens of the brotherhood, and in the church of St. Owen, of Bristowe. Also, that everyone so admitted must be of "good conversation and must make "surety by his faith" as far as in his power to "hold all honest," the ordinances of the said Fraternity, in the worship of God, and of our Lady Saint Mary, and of Saint John the Baptist, and of All Hallows." Also, every year on Friday following Midsummer Day, St. Michael's Day, Christmas Day, and Saint Mary Day in Lent, respectively, every brother and sister is to come together in the Chapel of the Fraternity in Saint Owen's Church, or, 'into some other' place that is honest, and assigned by the master of the Fraternity, to hear the ordinances read before all the company, that every of them may the better know the ordinances and the meaning of the required oath. Moreover, if needful, any concerns "touching the common profit of the Fraternity are at the same time to be discussed." From this periodical assembling no brother nor sister was to be absent without reasonable cause upon "peril of his oath if that he be in town and may come thereto."

Also, every brother and sister of the Fraternity was every day to say either for other and for all the good doers of the Fraternity, and for all that help the same by word or by deed, and for all the souls of the "brethren and sisteren," and for all Christian souls, three Paternosters and

three Ave Marias, upon peril of his oath in case of omission unless sickness may excuse him.

Also if any brother or sister, who having paid his dues "fall into poverty or into mischief," and may not "travalle," or work for his relief, he shall have of the common goods every week xiid. of money. (At that period a shilling a week was the wage of a thresher of corn, and seven shillings would purchase a cow.) He was however to confess to the whole brotherhood, that he was powerless to support himself, and to deliver his goods to the master and wardens, of which an inventory having been taken, they were returned to him for his lifetime; and at his death they reverted to the Fraternity. But if he was a man with a wife and children, he was to truly divide his goods into three equal parts, two-thirds going to his wife and children and the third part remaining to himself, his own portion being then to be yielded up to the master and wardens of the Fraternity, who returned it by inventory as in the previous case, and found him a shilling a week for the term of his life. But if "it so befalleth that any brother for dice playing for common contecking (brawling), for night-going, for whoredom using, for company gatherings, or for other such vicious vices using fall into mischief or poverty, hold him to his chance and to his best:" that is, let him help himself in the best way he can.

Also if any brother or sister of this Fraternity lie "sick in God's bonds," as soon as his case becomes known to the wardens, they in the name of all the Fraternity shall visit him and help him, if needful, till he be cured of his sickness, or God shall take him.

How essentially the religious element penetrated the society and saturated its whole form, will appear not only from the original construction of the guild, but from the minute regulations having a religious motive that meet us at every step of the ordinances. And here we may remark the jealous care with which the ecclesiastical and religious aspect of the Society was suppressed at the Reformation, and only its secular character maintained. In the earlier MS ordinances, we find the Company styled "the Craft of Taylors of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist,"

but this title has been abbreviated in later time to the "Craft of Tailors" only, the words "Fraternity" and "St. John the Baptist," being scored through. The instructions for Church Services, with the penalties for their neglect have also been intentionally obliterated, though it is yet possible to decipher the nature of these instructions through the cancelling not being complete.

The citations which I supply from the ordinances of the Guild, so far as they apply to religious observances, must be considered to be offered in order to disprove Mr. Toulmin Smith's assertion that the Fraternities of Richard II's time, as examined by the present, were only secular and lay institutions, and to prove that in their later form they are just what Mr. Smith would have us to believe they were in their earlier manifestation. With hardly more affectionate regard did Hopeful help Christian across the river, and the shining men assist him up the eternal hills beyond, than did the solemn troops and sweet societies of the middle ages attend to the spiritual interests of a sick, or dying, or departed brother or sister. Chilled by no spectral doubt that this mortal finally put on immortality, they reverenced the poor remains of one who had finished his work beneath the sun. "Stupid blockheads!" exclaims Carlyle, "to reverence a dead body with Te Deums or with tolling of bells in the choir. Yes, Brother: and yet on the whole, who knows how to reverence the body of a man? It is the most reverend phenomenon under the sun. For the highest God dwells visible in that mystical unfathomable Visibility which calls 'I' on the earth. 'Bending before men,' says Novalis, 'is a reverence done to this Revelation in the flesh. We touch Heaven when we lay our hand on a human body. And the body of one dead—a temple where the hero-soul once was and now is not.' Oh, all mystery, all mute *awe* and wonder; *Supernaturalism* brought home to the very dullest: eternity laid open, and the nether darkness and the upper light kingdoms do conjoin there, or exist nowhere! A cockney funeral, death reverenced by hatchments, horsehair, brass lacker, and unconcerned bipeds carrying long poles and bags of black silk."—*Past and Present*, 168.

"Also that every brother and sister of this fraternity, upon peril of his oath, be at Placebo and Dirige and offer at the mass with every brother and sister of this fraternity that is dead and buried within the town, if he be in the town and may come thereto, unless absent with reasonable excuse. And also that the wardens of the fraternity have about the body of this brother or sister that is dead, the light of the fraternity at Placebo and Dirige, and also at the mass if he be a poor man, so that it be done without challenging the light of parson or vicar."

"Also if it so befalleth that any brother or sister of this fraternity die out of the country beyond or on this side the sea, as soon as it is known among the fraternity, service of Placebo and Dirige is to be done in the chapel of the fraternity in presence of all the brethren and systern and masse on the morrow as though that he died in town and were buried in town."

"Also that every brother and sister where any brother or sister is dead pay truly his masse penny to the wardens when they come thereafter, and that the wardens pay truly this mass penny to the priests that be at the service of the mass of the brethren."

"Also if any brother or sister of the fraternity die within ten miles way about Bristowe, and his will be to be buried in Bristowe that the wardens of the fraternity at the common cost fetch him home and do him to be buried worshipfully, if he have himself whereof."

"Also when that there is a brother or sister of this fraternity dead, that the priest of the fraternity be charged by the master and the wardens to pray specially by name for that soul and for all Cristen souls by a whole year next sueing after his death and evermore after in general. Also that every brother and sister love other in love and in charity, and speak all good and procure all good every by other upon the peril of his oath."

"Also that every year in the day of the decollacyon of Seynt John the Baptist in harvest, that there be held a general mind (or commemoration) day for all the souls of the brotherite and sostren that be dead, and that every brother and soster be at Placebo and Dirige and offer at the mass

in the chapel of the fraternity upon peril of his oath, unless he may be reasonably excused."

"Also if any of the fraternity be of evil disposition and will not stand at reason, nor be ruled by the master and the wardens and moreover doth not his duties as his oath bindeth him, that the master and the wardens follow him by the law of holy Church as to a forswore man, and put him out of the company, unless he will amend."

"Also that every brother pay xiid to rent by the year at four times that be ordained, that is to say iiid by the quarter to the master or his assigns when he cometh thereafter."

It may be confessed that our faith in the inviolable harmony of the Guild is a little shaken when we find that it was expedient to express such an ordinance as the following :—"Also if any sister chide with other openly in the street, that either shall pay a pound of wax to the light of the fraternity : and if they fight, either shall pay twenty pounds of wax to the same light upon peril of their oath if they have power. And if any sister be proved a common chider among her neighbours after once warning or twice, the third time the master and the wardens of the fraternity shall put her out of the company for evermore." We may however hope that no brilliant illumination was derived from wax candles so supplied.

The Ordinances granted by Richard II. were confirmed and ratified in the Guild Hall, Bristol, by letters patent of King Harry the fourth being there enrolled in the time of William Frome, Mayor, A.D. 1401, "by the assent of all the Common Council of the town assembled there, to endure for evermore."

"First it is ordained by virtue of the charters of our Lord the King that every year at the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist shall be chosen by the old master of the year passed, a new master of the craft of tailors for to govern the fraternity of the said craft for the year following, and that the old master in sign and knowledge of his election at the said feast of St. John the Baptist in the middle of the dinner shall

put a garland upon the head of the new master, the which new master at the same day shall choose by the assent of his brothers there being four wardens, who at their election shall make their oaths to govern well and lawfully the said fraternity and the craft and all their liberties and good ordinances, and that they receive during their time no man nor woman to the fraternity, for reward, for prayer nor for love, if he or she be not of good name, fame, and of good condition."

The brethren who joined the Canterbury Pilgrimage from Southwark, were, according to the Father of English Poetry, clothed in "the livery of a solemn and great fraternity." The solemn fraternity with which we are in these days most familiar, by their being clothed in a uniform dress are the police, whose wives, however, are not pledged to wear costume of the same colour and material. The brothers and sisters of the Tailors' Guild, appear to have been attired in cloth of one kind, it being ordered that the masters and wardens "shall ordain every year good and convenient cloth, of one suit, for all brothers and sisters of the fraternity against the Feast of St. John the Baptist, and at the same day shall hold a dinner to all the brothers, and that every brother there being shall pay for his commons of the said dinner, after the ordinance of the master and four wardens. And that every brother of the said craft that is absent at the dinner abovesaid, without cause reasonable, shall pay the half past of that the other payeth, the which being present; and that all the brothers shall pay for their commons of the dinner within a month next following after the Feast of St. John the Baptist, upon pain to be put out of the said craft for evermore."

"Also if any debate or discord be between any brothers of the craft of Tailors, that the parties so in debate and discord, shall stand at the reward and ordinance of the master and four wardens, and if any brother that refuse, that he be put out of the said craft for evermore."

"Also if any person of the said Fraternity and craft, despise without cause reasonable, the master and wardens in the time that they be in their office, that then, and as often as the person so despising the master

and wardens shall pay four pounds of wax to the Chapel of the craft, and if he refuse so to pay, he shall be put out of the craft."

"Also if any tailor of the said craft lose (or spoil) by his evil working cloth or garment to him delivered to be cut; if the possessor and deliverer of the said cloth will thereof complain to the master and wardens and certify by his oath how much the cloth cost him, the costs, if it be found that the said garment may not conveniently serve the possessor and deliverer,—shall be fully given and paid, and the garment shall remain with the tailor as his own goods, and so every tailor shall be better advised to cut well and sufficiently the cloth that is unto him delivered to be cut."

"Also if any tailor not enfranchised be found using or occupying the craft of tailors in any place privily or openly within the franchise of Bristowe that every such shall pay to the Mayor forty pence, and to the said craft forty pence, in sustenance of poor people of the said craft; and that at every time that he may be found working in the craft of tailors in manner abovesaid, if it be not within the houses of Burgesses of the said craft and town and to the use and profit of the said Burgesses."

If any man kept open shop or worked openly on Sunday or other great feast day kept holy by holy Church, he was to forfeit one pound of wax at the first default, two pounds at the second, and elevenpence at the third.

Also, if any man of the craft dispraise any other man's name, on conviction he shall pay at the first default one pound of wax and so on as in the case of working on holidays.

If any brother did not appear at chapel when summoned he was fined one pound of wax.

In a great vellum bound book of the Society is contained an inventory of the ornaments of the altar of St. John the Baptist in the church of St. Andoen or Owen as taken in the third year of Henry IV. These consist of rich hangings, tunics and vestments of green, gold and ruby, including a frontal stained with imagery of the life of St. John the Baptist. Also, chalices of gilt silver, one weighing 33 ounces; another, the gift of Margaret Wylmot in 1436 (mentioned in a later inventory) had inscribed

about it the consolatory legend, "When God will, better may be," her condition for the donation being that she should be entitled to her obit or commemoration at her decease, and that her name, should "be set in the table among gode doers of ye saide fraternite."

Of another good doer we have the following entries :—"Be hit mynde that Morice Whyte gafe to the Fraternitee of Seint John the Baptist of Bristowe the Monday the xxi day of Averall in the yere of oure Lord MCCCCXLIX (1449) and in the yere of the regne of Kyng herry the VIth xxvij^{h}, a bolle pece of sylver weying viii ounces & qr and one powdre pere of sylver weying vii ounces in the which is wryte 'make us merry & glad, and shake well the powdre bagge.' To be hadde in prayers among bretherne and susterne of the seide ffraternitee with the sowle of Geffrey Galbers, of the whiche pece & powdre pere John Nancothan at that time maister of the seide ffraternitee hadde possession by the hands of the seide Morice, And after his deccase the seide pece and powdre pere to remayne to the seide ffraternitee and there to the same Morice byndeth hym and his executors. In recorde of John Yonge, merchant, Lawrence Temsetre, John Mersshfeld, Arnold Roberd and William Mere, bretheren of the seid ffraternitee." This donation consisted of a silver bowl accompanied by a pair of silver articles, apparently pepper boxes. With regard to the inscription on these :—

> "Make us merry and glad
> And shake well the powder bagge,"

the "poudre" was probably some pungent seasoning such as the Franklin's cook in Chaucer's prologue was expected to provide :—

> "Woe was his cook, but if his sauce were,
> Poynant and scharp and ready all his gere."

In the 12th year of Elizabeth the ordinances were remodelled and the craft was then styled a "Society and Mystery," the religious and ecclesiastical elements except what was involved in the initiator's oaths being eliminated. In this revised form the constitution was "with the consent of the whole House to endure for evermore." The oath for the Queen's

Majesty was in this form :—"I do swear that the Queen's most excellent Majesty Elizabeth, by the Grace of God is the Right and Lawfull heir unto the imperial and Royal crown of this realm of England and Ireland, and that she is the supreme head and governor next and immediately under God, of all estates both spiritual and temporal, and denying all foreign powers whatsoever they be to challenge any jurisdiction, authority and power within this her Majesty's realm of England, to stand to the same to my power as God shall help me, and by the contents of this book."

Under the Act for the Dissolution of Colleges (37 Henry VIII. c. 4,) the possessions of certain Fraternities, Brotherhoods, and Guilds, that had been dissolved with the Colleges and Chantries, were vested in the Crown) and the King was empowered to send out commissioners to seize the possession of others, under the plea that they should be "used and exercised to more Godly and virtuous purposes." The Act of 1 Edward VI. c. 14, went beyond this ; after completing the demolition of colleges, free chapels, and chantries, it proceeded not only separately by name to vest in the King all sums of money devoted "by any manner of Corporations, Guilds, Fraternities, Companies, or Fellowships, or Mysteries, or Crafts to the support of a priest, obits or lights" (which might be taken under colour of religion) but to hand over to the Crown "all Fraternities, Brotherhoods, and Gilds, being within the realm of England and Wales, and other the King's dominions and all mannors, lands, tenements, and other hereditaments,* belonging to them or any of them, &c." "For the abolition of monasteries," remarks Mr. Toulmin Smith, "there was some colour ; and after professed inquiries as to manners ; moreover, allowances were made to all ranks. But in case of Gilds no pretence of enquiry or of mischief. And no allowances whatever. A case of pure, wholesale robbery and plunder, done by an unscrupulous faction to satisfy their personal greed under cover of law. No more gross case of wanton plunder is to be found n the history of all Europe. No page so black in English History."

In 1577 there was a dispute (as appears by a Latin document among the

* Smith's Guilds, xiii.

archives of the company) as to whether the Crown was or was not entitled to the property of the Merchant Tailors of Bristol. Upon an information by the Attorney General, setting forth that one tenement and garden in St. Thomas Street, in the occupation of Henry Leeke ; and one tenement in Baldwin Street, occupied by John Felde ; and one other tenement in Wine Street, by Philip Scapulis, "all which premises lately belonged to the fraternity of Saint John the Baptist, otherwise the fraternity of Tailors within the Parish of Saint Owen, were parcel of the possessions in the hands of the Queen in right of the Crown ; yet that the said Henry Leeke, John Felde, and Philip Scapulis were in possession of the same, and of the rents and profits in contempt of the Queen and against the law. Whereupon the Attorney General prayed the judgment of the Court, and that the said persons should answer the Queen in the premises. Leeke, Felde, and Scapulis pleaded themselves not guilty of the contempt, and put themselves upon the country. They proved that certain other persons named had previously held the property now claimed by the Crown. The Attorney General replied, protesting and knowing nothing of what in this plea was specified, and praying that it may be enquired of by the country, &c., and Leeke, Felde, and Scapulis did the like. Whereupon it was ordered that a jury should determine the matter at the Assizes for the City of Bristol ; who decided against the Crown by giving as their verdict that the said Henry Leeke, John Felde, and Philip Scapulis, had not intruded upon the possessions of the Queen by their occupations of and claim to the premises in question."

By Letters Patent under the Great Seal, Queen Elizabeth (17th December, 1602), in consideration of £96 1s. 8d. paid into the Exchequer by George Snygg, Esquire, John Harrison, of Bristol, draper, Richard Ryce, William Busher, Samuel Willett, William Harrison, John Cole, John Greene, Robert Curtis, Thomas Cowley, Edward Saunders, and John Watkins, junior, of the city of Bristol, tailors, granted to George Snygg and others, their heirs and assigns, three tenements in Temple Street, that had devolved to the Crown by reason of the Act of Parliament for the dissolution of

Chantries, &c.; also in the same grant were included a tenement in Tucker Street, and nineteen other tenements in High Street, Broad Mead, and other parts of the city, together with five gardens, the names of the tenants of the respective houses being given in the original Latin charters.

In the minutes of the proceedings of the Guild meetings we find the names of the persons admitted to fellowship, together with the kind of craft work they were allowed to undertake. Unfortunately, the dates are only rarely supplied, but the handwriting (except that of the first extract) is of the time of Elizabeth. Thus:—

On 15th March, 1489, it was fully agreed by Andrew Glowse, master of the fraternity of St. John the Baptist in Brystow, with the rest of the brethren, "that from this time forward none within our felowship shall sell ani kind or manner of hose whatever it be men's or women's in the Markett commonly called the Hie Strete (High Street) or market place upon bordes or tressels or other ways, but in their shopes and houses, and being of the same fellowship or company, on pain of a fine of VIs. VIIId. for the first default, and of being put out of the company and fellowship for ever at the second offence;" "provided always that in the fair times they may stand as it hath been accustomed of old auncient time."

Memorandum "That John Addon hath been tryde (*i.e.* tested) and allowed before the master and the brothers to make these garments—a coat, a kyrtyll, a woman's gown, hose and doblet; and none other but these. Roger Walker, Master."

"Thomas Hopkyn hath been tryd and allowed before ye masters and the brethren to make these garments following—that is to say all manner of man's garments, and none other. Roger Walker, Master of the Craft."

"Mem. That Matthew Dulle hath byn proved a fore the master and all his bretherene, and by favor of the master and hys bretherene they have allowyd hym suche garments makyng as here after forthwyth, in primis a cote, a doblet, a woman's gowne, a kyrtyll, a Spanyshe cloke, a jackett; John Ap Meryche, master. Richard Abyngdon, mayor, Henry White and John Gerrys then beynge shreves of the town of Brystowe."

One David ap Howell was allowed to make no new garments but only to mend old.

"John Spence vastment maker" was "proved before the master Ralf Johnson and taykth upon hymn all manner garments and he to pay for hys fyne xxvi.-s. viiid. that ys xx.-d. every quarter untyll paid.

"Mem. When Gylbart Robarte was master then Richard Carbery was made free and he toke upon him to make men's garments and no women's garments in anno 1556."

On one occasion we have entered (undated, but probably about 1560) "Mem. That Mr. Mare and his sheryves hath geven unto the master of the taylors and hys brethern xvi gallons of wyne of ye which wyne ye master and hys bretherne hath gevyn unto ye jornymen v gallons."

It may be surmized that the journeymen were not able to indulge in the luxury of wine at their own expense. Under A.D. 1556 and later we get some information as to journeymen's wages. For instance we find "Mem. That the xxx days of June Robert Malbe made his covenant with Nicholas Byrchwood to sarve him for viii.-d. a weke till Crystmas."

"Mem. That Richard Prefleck made his covenant with William Rodgers a whole year for xxx.-s."

"That Thomas a Pere made covenant with Philip Braune from Midsummer till Crystmas for xd. a week."

"That John Hall hath made covenant with William Jones this 10th of July for one whole year, and must have for his service xxxs. ivd.

Thomas Cooke engages for a quarter at 10d. a week; John Sharpe for the same space at 12d. a week; Anthony Sympson at 16d. a week, which is the highest amount of wages that we find in the year 1556, the usual payment being tenpence a week. Unfortunately for comparison with later periods these entries are not continued beyond about 1560.

That not only craftsmen belonged to the society, but that it was accounted an honourable privilege in general to be admitted to membership may be learned from the fact that the roll of names did not exclude

those of the chief magistrate and the parish clergy. Thus we find entered "xxiiiith day of June, 1602, was the right worshipful Willin Harvre, Mayor of this Citie of Bristoll, received brother, and Anne, his wife, sister and sworne for terme of theire lives."

"The xxvith daie of June, 1602, was Willin Robinson, Vicar of St. Nicholas, within the Cittie of Bristoll, received brother, and Anne, his wife sister, and sworne for term of their lives; and in consideracion of this his brotherhood, he promiseth to preach at the buriall of anyone that hath been master, being requested thereunto during the time he, the said Willm Robinson shall be dwelling within the said Cittie."

Also, June 17th, 1624, Edward Shaw, Clerke, Rector of St. John Baptist, was made brother and sworne for term of his life.

In 1649, there was a complaint that the company had been exceedingly enlarged of late years by taking in strangers by way of redemption and composition, and is much impoverished by the increasing and continual adding of such unto this numerous company year after year, eight strangers being made free of the company this last year, that without course be taken to prevent for the future the admitting of any more it must needs tend unto the utter ruin and impoverishing of the whole company, which now are above a hundred freemen that have wives and families. It was therefore ordered that no more strangers should be made Freemen of the Company, but only such as had served seven years' apprenticeship to Freemen of the City.

"The xviith of June, 1611, Anthony Basset was tryed and alowed for a peare (pair) of whalebone boddes of sackcloth and a pair of trunke sleves and a farthingale, which is newly used now in these dayes, and is tryed only for these iii. thinges and nothinge else by his owne deseine and by the consent of the master and all his assistans, and if he do after this tyme tacke upon him or entermeddle to macke anye garment for man, woman, or child, but that which he was tried for, except it be for his owne self, or his wife, or his children, or for his servants in his house, yf he do contrary to this order which he is tryed for, he shall lose xxs. for every default

according to the order which is provided for that artickell, the names of the iiii. men that tried him were these: Robert Curtis, William Horton, William Hurnes, Thomas Bradley the younger."

It may be here remarked that a pair of stays was first called a pair of bodies, from whence our word *bodice.** A well-known portrait of Queen Elizabeth taken in the dress in which she went to St. Paul's to return thanks for the defeat of the Spanish Armada, gives a typical example of the female costume of James the First's time, which, according to Mr. Planche, was little more than a continuation of that of the latter part of the preceding reign. An enormous ruff, rising gradually from the front of the shoulders to nearly the height of the head behind, encircled the wearer like the nimbus or glory of a saint, while from the partially uncovered bosom descended a deep stomacher, on each side of which jutted out horizontally the enormous farthingale, the prototype of Georgian hoop. With respect to the gallants of the time when Anthony Basset was allowed bodices, trunk sleeves and farthingales John Taylor, the Water Poet, has these against the spendthrifts who—

> "Wear a farm in shoe-strings edged with gold,
> And spangled garters worth a copy-hold:
> A hose and doublet which a lordship cost:
> A gaudy cloak three mansions' price almost:
> A beaver band and feather on the head,
> Prized at the church's tythe, the poor man's bread."

We again meet with Anthony Basset in 1621 as one of the arbitrators in a dispute between two brothers of the Society. The entry will explain itself:—"Award made betweene John Baker and Thomas Thomson, the 22nd of Aprill, by Roger Hart, William Champion, William Woodward, and Anthony Basset, concerning the falling out betwixt them that they shall be lovers and friends for ever upon the forfiture of vis. viiid. to be payed by the first that doth offend to the use of the poore of this Company." Signed by the disputants. By me John Baker,
Thomas Tomson.

* Planche's Costume 226.

From this unsophisticated manner of settling disputes it might almost be thought that in these unenlightened days lawyers had not been invented.

No one could be admitted to the Company until he had been proved to be a perfect workman, the entries being almost invariably in the following form :—*i.e.*

1629, October the 29th. Robert Frye was made free and brother, and was allowed a perfect workman both for men and woeman's aparrell, and was tried by Roger Harte, William Newton, and Henry Hart, and David Jones.

16th April, 1633. Thomas Adye was made free and brother, and was allowed a perfect workman for a hosier only, and was tryed by Roger Hart, etc.; 12s. being his entrance fee.

December 8, 1661. John Harris was made free of the Company, paying for his redemption, and did pay for his freedome the full some of Thirty Pounds of good and lawful money of England, and was tryed by Mr. Robert Lancaster, Mr. John Smith, Anthony Bradstock, Richard Benson, and was found an expert workman for men and women's apparel, and did pay the full dues of the house: not sworne.

Oct. 18, 1662. Ralph Johnes was made free of the Company of Taylors, for that he was apprentice to John Johnes, and was tried by Mr. Legge, etc., and found expert for men and women's apparel.

On Oct. 21, 1662, it was ordered that no man should be made free of the Merchant Taylors' Company without the payment of Thirty Pounds; and that any master who admitted a stranger without fulfilment of this condition, was himself to pay a fine of £30, while "the party" so received was to be dismissed and "stand a furreinner as he did before."

We may quote in evidence of the strictness with which the laws of the Company were enforced, the case of John Holland, who was detected in the employment of a journeyman in his (the journeyman's) own dwelling house, whereupon "the master with his officers did take the work into their custody, and had the said Holland to the Tolsey, before the deputy

Mayor, Nov. 12, 1674, to complain upon the said Holland, upon which the Mayor ordered him to go to the Hall to make his peace with the Company, so the Master did chuse four indifferent men to judge of the fines done and committed by the said Holland and the man whom he employed, so the foure men found the said John Holland guilty of a fine of Forty Shillings."

"May 16th, 1677, then being Court day, it was then concluded by Richard Hayward, then Master of the Company, that whereas Gabriel Lower, late Master of same Company, did in the yeare 1676 make one Thomas Bayliffe, bodice maker, free of the said Company without the consent of the senior Masters, which is contrary to the ordinance granted unto the said Company of Merchant Tailors by the late kings of England of a long continuance: and amongst several articles granted unto the said Company, it was ordained and concluded by King Charles the First and several lords of his privy council did order that if any of the said Company that shall be master of the Society shall make any person free of the said Company that was not bound an apprentice according to the wholesome laws of this nation, the said Master so doing shall forfeit and pay the sum of Ten Pounds for a fine." This fine of £10 Gabriel Lower submitted and paid in the Common Hall.

Again, 30th June, 1677, complaint was made to the Mayor and Aldermen that Richard Hayward, the late master had admitted John Hardyman and two others into the liberties of the Society, although they nor any of them were burgesses of the city. It was ordered that this should be no precedent for the future, and that none of the said three persons should be permitted to set up shop till made free of the city, and till then to be accounted journeymen only.

June 22, 1672. By consent. It was then concluded by Mr. Stephens, then master of the Company of the Merchant Tailors, and the senior masters of the same Company, that Mr. Pammer should from henceforth during his life and ability preach once a yeere upon midsommer day in the Church of St. John's Baptist, a sermon for the master and masters and

the hole company of Tailors, allowing him (10s.) for a sermon preached in the morning for his paines. In cause that the said master Pammer should die, then the next minister that shall succede his place shall performe the same duty and receive the same benefit for his services, and so successively to continue; and the said Master Pammer is allowed a brother of the Company."

These sermons were continued to a late period in the history of the Society. We cannot answer for the authenticity of the relation, but it is said that on one occasion a waggish divine gave out for his text, "A remnant shall be saved," (Romans ii. 27,) and proceeded to prick the consciences of his hearers, by his discourse thereon, like touches from their own needles. When the next midsummer day rolled round, he confirmed the pointedness of his former allusion by choosing for his topic, "Him that taketh away thy cloak forbid not to take thy coat also," (Luke vi. 29;) but the too great liveliness of his text on the next anniversary, "And there came divers sorts of flies and lice in all their coasts," (Psalm cv. 31,) sounding the final word like "coats," and saved him from any further invitation to preach before the Merchant Tailors.

In a memorial to the Right Honourable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury, addressed by Arthur Palmer the Elder and Arthur Palmer the younger, William Fripp, Samuel Birch, and William Henry Marshall, it is explained that until lately there was within the city of Bristol a company known by the name of the Company of Merchant Tailors, which company had for many years been, or claimed to be, a company duly incorporated. That in 1824, Isaac Amos, the only surviving member of the said Company, departed this life, and the Company became, and is now, wholly dissolved and extinct. That the said Company was possessed of or entitled to considerable property, part of which was held upon certain charitable trusts, and the members of the Company applied a considerable part of the annual proceeds of the residue of such property for charitable uses.

"That for many years prior to the dissolution of the Company, its

freehold property had been from time to time conveyed by feoffments, or by indentures of lease and release from feoffees to feoffees or from releasees to releasees to the use of the Company."

"That the last of such conveyances was by Indentures of lease and release bearing date respectively the 1st and 2nd days of January, 1802, and likewise the 4th and 5th of the same month."

"That by the Indentures of the 1st and 2nd January, 1802, the release being made by and between Arthur Palmer, therein described as Master of the 2nd Company, and Robert Bayly, Esq., and John Showell, Merchant Tailors, therein described as surviving feoffees of all the messuages, lands, &c., belonging to the said Society or Company, of the one part, and William Hare and Henry Browne of the other part, the said parties thereto of the first part conveyed or purported to convey, to hold the same upon trust, to the said William Hare and Henry Browne, their heirs and assigns, all that formerly one great messuage or tenement, with the appurtenances, but then converted into three, situate in Broad Street within the parish of St. John Baptist, in the city of Bristol, formerly in the possession of Sir Thomas Cann, Knight, or his under-tenants, &c. Also the great messuage called the "Tailors' Hall," in Tailors' Court, Broad Street, with many other properties described in the Memorial, that were settled and conveyed and assured to the said Company of Merchant Tailors, by letters patent under the great seal of England by Queen Elizabeth or otherwise."

"That all the parties to the indentures last mentioned, except the memorialists, have since the execution thereof, departed this life, leaving the said memorialists, Arthur Palmer the Elder, Arthur Palmer the younger, William Fripp and Samuel Birch, the only surviving releasees in such indentures named."

"That the principal part of the real estates of the Company appears to have formerly belonged to a certain fraternity of Saint John the Baptist, incorporated by virtue of Letters patent of King Richard the 2nd, and bearing date the 16th Oct. in the 22nd year of His reign, and confirmed by

Letters patent of K. Henry IVth, 20th May, in the 1st year of His reign, and with which fraternity the said company of Merchant Taylors appear to have been connected either by forming an integral part thereof, or otherwise; and such the real estates of the said fraternity were seized by the Crown by virtue of the statute passed in the 1st year of K. Edward VIth, entitled 'an Act for Charities Collegiate,' and part thereof was granted by Q. Elizabeth by Letters patent, 2nd Sept. in the 17th year of Her reign to John Farnham & John Doddington, under whom the said Company afterwards derived title thereto. And other part thereof was granted by Q. Elizabeth, 22nd of the same month to John Herbert and Andreas Palmer, under whom the Company afterwards derived title thereto. And the principal part thereof was granted by Q. Elizabeth by Letters patent, 17th Dec. the 45th year of her reign, to George Snygg and others therein named, and from whom there is a regular series of conveyances down to the said indentures of January, 1802."

That part of the premises comprised in the said Letters patent consisted of four tenements situated in Marshall (or Merchant) street, Bristol, two of which were afterwards, and previously to the year 1630, converted by the company into an almshouse, which have ever since been known by the name of the Merchant Tailors' Almshouse.

That about the year 1701 the original almshouse was rebuilt and enlarged principally out of the funds of the Society.

The purpose of the memorial was to intercede with his Majesty to grant such parts of the hereditaments and premises comprised in the indentures of 4th and 5th Jan. 1802, as may have escheated to the crown and the rents and issues thereof accrued since the dissolution of the Company to the memorialists, the two Palmers, Fripp and Birch, upon trust for the support of the said almshouse, and hereafter to such trustees as his Majesty shall appoint.

ORDINANCES OF THE FRATERNITY OF SAINT JOHN BAPTIST, BRISTOLL.

"Here begynneth the ordinances of the fraternite of Seint John Baptyste, in the churche of Seint Owen of Brystowe, with the grace of God for ever to endure.

"The fyrst is that ne man ne woman be underfange into the fraternite abovesaide whoute assent of the keper and maister, and the wardeynes of the foresaide fraternite, and in the chyrche abovesaide. And also that hit be a man or woman y knowe of good conversation and honeste. And that he make surete and by his feyth trewlich by his power for to holde all the ordinances of the same fraternite, in the worshepe of god and of our ladie saynte Marie, and of seint John the Baptiste, and of allehalowes. Also every yer that every brother and sester of thys fraternite in soch tymes of the yer, that is to say, on the frieday nexte sewyng, after mydesomer daye, on the fryedaye nexte sewyng after saint mychel is daye, on the friedaye nexte sewynge after cristemasses daye, and on the friedaie nexte sewyng after saint marie day in lente, come togeder to the chapelle of the fraternite in the chyrche above said, other into another place yet is honeste by ye mayster of the fraternite assyngned, to here the ordinances of the same fraternite y radde byfore all the compaynye, yat every of hem may ye beter know ye ordenance, and yave ye beter yer oothe. And moreover yef that it be made to intrete of dyverse thyngys that byth nedefulle touchynge ye comune profyte of ye fraternite above esayde. And also yat no brother ne syster of ye fraternite yat resonable ys warned by ye wardeynes other by ye bedille of ye foresaide fraternite absents hem yer hennys wyth oute cause reasonabyl upon perayle of hys othe yf yat he be in town and maie come yer to.

"Also yat every brother and syster of thys fraternite every day sey eyggr for other and for alle ye goode doeres of ye fraternite above sayde and for alle thukke yat yer to helpeth other procuryth in worde other in deede;

and for alle the soules of ye brotherne and sostern, and for alle crisnte soules iii paternoster and iii ave marias, fer forthe as it may come to hys mynde upon peryle of his othe; but yf sekenesse maie excuse hym. Also yf eny brother other soster of thys fraternite above sayde that have trewly y payed hys deutes yat longeth to ye fraternite falle into poverte other into myschef and maie note travalle for to he be releved, he schal have of ye comune goodes every weke xiid of monei. So that he come and knowlich to ye mayster and to the wardeynes and to ye bretherne of ye same fraternite yat he is in unpower and yat he yelde up his score whiche yat he have to ye mayster and to ye wardynes. And he schalle receve hit agene by endentor i made bytwene the mayster and hym, and he schalle occupe hit terme of his lyfe; and after ye decesse of hym, by ye same endentur, his executors schulle delyver it ageyne to ye mayster, and to ye wardeynes of the same fraternite wyche that buth fore the tyme.

"And yf he be a man yat hath wyfe and chylde he schal trewly departe alle hys goodes bytwyne heir and hys wyfe and children: and ye partie that falleth to hym he schal trewley yeld up to ye mayster and to ye wardynes of the fraternite obove sayde, in ye maner to fore seide. And he schal receve hit ageyne by endenture as it is byfore saide. And ye maister and ye wardeynes of the comune goodes schulle fynde him terme of his lyfe every weke aftr ye quantite above sayde.

"And yef it so byfalleth yat eny brother of yis fraternite for dies pleyng, for commune conteckyng, for nygte goyng, for hourdome usynge, for companye gederyng other fore other suche viciouse vices usyng, fall into myschef, other into poverte, holde hym to his chaunce and to hys beste.

"Also yef eny brother or soster of this fraternite leynge seke in Goddis bonde, as sone as hit ys yknow to ye wardeynes of the fraternite, yat thei in the name of alle ye fraternite schalle visit hym and helpe hym yef hit be nede till yat he be keued of his sekeness, other elles god by take.

"Also that every brother and syster of yis fraternite upon peryl of hys othe be at placebo and dirige and offre at the masse when every brother and syster of this fraternite that is dede, and buried within ye ton (town),

and yef he be in ton (town) and maie come yerto, and but yef he maie resonabli be excused. And also yat the wardeynes of ye fraternite have a boute the bodye of thys brother other syster yat is dede the lygte of the fraternite at placebo and dirige and also at ye masse yef he be a poure man so that hit maie be do whoute chalangyng of ye lygte of parson or vicar.

" Also yef hit so byfalleth yat eny brother other syster of this fraternite deye (die) out of contreie byyond ye see other a this halve the see as sonne as it is knowe amang ye fraternite yat for hym be i do ye service of placebo and dirige in ye chapelle of ye fraternite in presence of alle the brothern and systern and masse amorrow as though that he deyde in ton and were yburied in ton.

" Also yat everi brother and syster whan eny brother other syster is dede paye trewley his masse peny to ye wardeynes whan ye i cometh y after, and yat ye wardeynes paye trewly thys masse penyes to ye prestes yat buye (be) at ye service of ye masse of the brethren.

" Also yef eny brother other syster of ye fraternite above seyde deye wh in ten myle weys about Brystowe, and hys wylle be to be buried in Bristow, yt ye wardeynes of ye fraternite at ye commune coste fetch hym home and do hym to be buried worschepfullich, bute gif he have hymselfe whereof.

" Also whan yat there is a brother other a soster of yis fraternite dede, yat the preste of the fraternite be y charged by ye mayster and ye wardeynes of the fraternite for to pray specialye by name for that soule and for all cristen soules by an hole yer nexte sewying after his deth and evermore after in generale. Also that everi brother and soster love other in love and in charite, and speke al goude, and procure al goude everi by other as ferforth as he may by his wetyng upon the perile of his othe.

" Also that every brother and soster sumwhat byqueste in his testamente to menteyne ye preste and the lygte of the fraternite other geve with his hondes by his life, gif he be in power and have whereof. Also gif eny soster chyde with other openly in the strete, yat eyther schalle paye a

pounde wex to ye lighte of the fraternite; and gif they feygte eyther schall paie twenty pounde wex to ye same lyte upon perryle of her oth gif thei be in power. And gif eny soster by y proved a commune chider amang her neygbourys after ones warnyng other tweies at the (delit) ye thridde tyme ye maister and ye wardeynes of ye fraternite schulle pute her oute of ye compaynye for ever more.

"Also yat everi yer in ye day of decollacyon of seynt john the baptiste in harveste, yat yei be y helde a generale mynde daie for alle ye soules of ye bretherite and sostren and for alle ye soules of the good doores of the fraternite above seide yat buy dede and for alle cristen soules, and that every brother and soster be at placebo and dirige and offre at ye masse in ye chapel of ye fraternite upon peryle of his othe bute yif he may resonable be excused.

"Also zif eny of ye fraternite be of evyl dysposissyon and wol not stande at reson, ne be rewlyd by ye maister, and ye wardeynes of ye fraternite and moreover doth not his duetes as his oth byndith hym, yat the maister and ye wardeynes folowe to him by ye lawe of holy chyrch as to a forswore man and put hym out of ye companye, but zif he wol amenden hym.

"Also that every brother trewly pay xiid to rente by the yer at foure tymes yat buy y ordeynyd, yat is to say iiid by ye quarter to ye maister other his assyngnes whom he cometh yer after."

Juramentum fratris et Sororis.

"Ich N in the worschepe of god and of our lady seint Marie and of seint John ye baptiste and of alle halowe terme of lyfe which ye grace of gode by my power trewli schalle holde in my behalve ye ordinances yat bey y made touchyng ye fraternity of Saint John the Baptiste in Bristowe, and yer to y plygte my trewthe and make her a bodiely othe and kysse ye boke.

Juramentum tu magistri et custod fraternitates.

"Thou N, maister keper of the crafte of Seint John ye Baptiste, and ye M. M. wardeynes of ye same (del.) trewly by your power, and by your

comyng schalle governe and kepe the crafte above seide, and ye crafte of taylors ; and also ye schul trewly kepe all ye ordynances that longyth to ye crafte above seid, and ye composicion that is made bytwene ye maistres of ye foreseide craft. And ye soweres of ye same crafte. And also in yor conyng ye schul trewly mynster ye comune godys of ye forseide crafte, and trewe acountes ther of yelde at ye yer is ende, and trewly enquer the comune goodes whiche beth be hynde or elles to comyng, for ye comune pr'fite, that is to sey rentes, byquestes, fynes and giftes, which beth forto arer notwithstondyng love ne drede of frende, ne felawe nor of non other man wher of the comune pr fite be not abregged and yrto ye pligte yor trewth."

ORDINACIONES INTITULATE IN GYLDA AULD BRISTOLL TO THE HONOUR OF GOD, OF OUR LADY, OF SEINT JOHN THE BAPTISTE, AND OF ALL SEINTES (DEL.)

"Thes be the ordinences made and established in the crafte (del) of Taillours of Brystowe (del.) of seint John the baptiste, by v'tue of lib'tres and licences to them graunted by lett's patentes of Kynge Richard the secunde, and confermed and ratefied by lettres patentes of Kynge Henry the fourth, and enrolled in ye Gelde halle of Bristowe in the tyme of William Ffrome mair (1401) of ye seid Towne, the seconde yere of the reigne of kyng harry the fourth, by the assent of all the comyn conseill of the same towne assembled their to endure for ever more.

"First hit is ordeined by vertue of the Charters of our lorde the Kynge that every yere at the fest of the Natyvite of seint John the baptiste schalle be schosyn by ye olde maister of the yere passed a new maister of the craft of taillours for to governe the fraternite of the seid craft for ye yere following, and that the olde maistre in signe and knowlegge of his election at the said fest of seynt John the baptiste in ye myddel of the dynner shall put a Garland upon the hedde of the newe mister, the which

newe maister at the same day shall chese by the assent of his brothers there beyng foure wardeyns, at ther election schall make their othe to governe well and lawfully the said fraternite and the crafte and all theier lib'tees and good ordenences and that they receyve not durying their tyme noo man ner woman to the saide fraternite for reward, for prayer, ner for love, if he or she be not of good name, fame, and of goode condition. And that the saide maister and iiii wardeines at every tyme that eny thyng of charge touchynge the sayd crafte shall be made or ordened that they shal be ensembled and come together. And that noon of thym doo eny thyng wythout other. And that at the ende of the saide yere the saide maister and iiii wardeines shall yielde lawfull accompte to the new maister and iiii wardeynes of the yere folowyng an to theim deliver all the goodes pteynyng to the saide crafte wt the arrerages if eny bee.

"Also that the sayde maister and iiii. wardeines everi yere at the said fest of seynt John the baptist may chese a bedull for to gether their rentes and all other dutees pteynyng to the said fraternite as ofte as he is warned by the said maister and iiii. wardeyns . . . (delit) daie a white yard for his signe.

"Also that every brother of the said craft of Taillours that is resonabilly warnyd to come at a certain day to hym assigned by the Warden and be absent without cause resonable he shall pay to the use of the said crafte (del.) at the first defaute iiiid. and at the seconde defaute viiid., at the thurde defaute to be put oute of the said crafte yf he refuse to pay his juramentes assessyd by the maister and iiii. wardeyns for his defautes, when hit is resonably by the foresaid ward demaunded and asked.

"Also that the said maister and iiii. wardeyns schall ordeyne every yere good and convenient cloth of oon suyt for all brothers and sisters of the said fraternity, and that agenst the fest of the nativite of Saint John the Baptist and at the same day shall holde a dynner to all the brothers, the which thethur cometh or myght come. And that every brother there beyng schall pay for hys comyns of the said dynner after the ordenance of the said mayster and iiii. wardens. And that every brother of the said

craft that is absent at the dynner aforesaid w'out cause resonable that he shall pay the halfe part of that the other payeth, the which byn present; and that alle the brothers shall pay for ther (del.) comyns of the dynner wt.yn a month next followyng after the said fest of Saint John the Baptist, upon peyne to be put oute of the said crafte for evermore.

"Also yf eny debate or discorde be betweene eny brothers of the said craft of taillors that the pties so in debate and discorde schall stonde at the rewarde and ordenence of the maister and iiii. wardeyns yr which byn for the tyme. And if eny brother that refuse that he be put out of the saide crafte for evermore. Provided alweys that no thyng be not doon nor put in ewre by colour of this ordenence the which may be hurt or preiudice to the ffraunchisse of Bristowe in eny manner.

"Also for that before this tyme the craft of Taillours in this honorable Towne hath be and yet ys gretely sclawndered in meni parties of the Realme insomuche that eny Ribaud or other person of the said craft not perfit of and in the same, or a theef for to stele clothe to hym delyvered yf he be a burgeys that he may holde a shope of the said craft, and lese the garments by hym cutte and sume timys goith awey with all the cloth to the greate sclaunder as well to the said towne as to the craft abovesaid, and to the greate damages of ye pepill in defaut that good ordennence ys not made in thys towne as it is in london, yorke, and other townes of the realme, in the which citees and townes it is ordered and establessed that noo man of the craft of taillours shall be reseeved to have ffraunchise or ffredome nor holde his craft of the craft aforesaid for to cutte eny cloth yf he be not presented by the maister and wardeyns of the saide craft to the mair of ye Towne as person habill and pfit (del.) in his craft. It is ordened and established by the mair and alle the comyn Counsaill of the said town of Bristowe that from hensfurth noo man of the craft of Taillours shal be enfraunchised in the foresaid towne but the master and the iiii wardeyns of the said crafte of Saint John the baptiste in Bristowe for the tyme beyng shall wytnesse to the mair shrif and alle the Courte that he is person habill, of good condicion and of good name and full perfytt of

his craft. The which p'son so presented and inhabiled by the advise of the mair and Baillife for the tyme beyng shalbe resceyvyd payng his fyne and his fees (del.) by the advis and ordennence of the mair and Baillife. And also that noo man of ye craft abovesaid shall not cutte noo cloth yf he be not enfraunchised wythyn the towne in the maner abovesaid. And over this that noo such person so enfraunchised hold hys craft but in opyn place and not in chambyrs nor in corners nor in hurnes yf it be not in howsis of Burgeisys of the said towne and of the said craft. And also that noo servant of the saide crafte shall holde a prentice ne servant under hym unto the tyme that hy be enfraunchised, and yf eny so doo that any mayster of the said craft therof havyng kanowlegge (*sic*) shall warne the mayster for the tyme beyng. And ye same man by the advise of the maister and iiii wardeyns abovesaid may delyver the prentice or servunt to a maister of the craft abovesaid for to enfurm (inform) hym in the same craft unto the tyme that his first maister be enfraunchesed wtyn the Towne abovesaid.

"Also yf eny brother or sister of the said fraternite dye beyen the see or a this syde the see that then as sone as the maister of the said fraternite hath knowlegge thereof the same maister schall make ye bedeman pray for the same sowle, goyng by all the towne at the costys of the said fraternite, and all ye chapelyns and clerkes of the same fraternite shall syngge solemply dirige by note and the morowe masse by note in the Chapell of the said fraternite for the sowle of the brother or syster that is dep'ted and dede. And all the brothers and syst's of the sayde fraternite schall assembill theym and be ther together at dirige and at masse and shall offer for hym or her in the same maner as thei shulde doo for a brother or sister dyeng w'in the said towne, and yf eny of the sayd brothers of the said craft w'out cause resonable be absent from the said Dirige or masse, or offer not in maner abovesaide that eny of thym so absent or offer not shall pay oon pownde of wex to the said Chapell. And yf he w'oute cause resonable refuse to pay that he shall forfaite and be putte oute of the said fraternite. And also yf eny Brother or syst' of

the same fraternite dye w'in x myle aboute the towne, and bequeth his bodye to be beried w'in the towne abovesaid, that then the said maister and wardeyns of the forsaid fraternite and craft for the tyme beyng shall ordeyne to brynge the body to the sayd towne upon the costis of the same fraternite, yf he or she so dede have not at the tyme of his or her deth goodes sufficient of their owne.

"Also yf eny brother or sister of the said fraternite dye beyen the see or a this syde the see oute of the towne or wythyn the towne, then every p'son of the said fraternite shall pay to the said wardeyns a peny for to have masses to be seyd and songge for the sowle of hym or her that is dep'ted and dede, and the said wardeyns shall levye and gether lawfully by ther bedull the said penses and money to be distributed and devydid as foloweth, that is to say, the meite and halfyndele thereof to be distribued and devyded amonge and betwene the Chapelyns psenter and syngyng masses the day of the 'terment for the sowle of hym or her that is dep'ted and dede. And the other meite and halfyndele thereof to be distribued and devydid among and betwene poure peopill lyng sycke.

"Also eny Chapelyn sygyng and ordeyned for the sayde fraternite schal be charged by his othe to sygnge and pray specially for the sowlys of the brothers and sisters that been dep'ted and dede in what place that he synge or sey his masse. And also whann continnualy by an hole yere next folwyng the knewlegge of the decesse and deth of every brother and sist' of the sayd fraternite an especiall memorie and rememberance of their namys in hys massys.

"Also if in case that eny p'son of the said crafte falle all oonly by fortune and not by hasardrye, felonye nor by hys evyll desevyng in such poverte that he hath noo thyng or full litill of hys owne to sustayne hymself, and ye same and his necessite shewe unto the sayd maistre and wardayns for time beying and to the same maister and wardayns geve and yelde uppe to theym and theyr successours to the use and behese of the same fraternite all his estore that he hath that then eny such person from thens forth shall have of the said fraternite xiid. for every weeke to

and for his sustenaunce to be payed by the maister and wardeyns fore the tyme' beyng at iiii. times in ye yere by egall portions. And yf eny p'son that hath be mayster of the said fraternite falle in poverte shewe and doo in maner as is above said and hath be a p'son p'fitabill to his power to the said fraternite then he to have for every weeke xvid. to be payd in the maner above said.

"Also if eny p'son of the said fraternite and craft above said despise with oute cause reasonabull the maister and wardeyns of the said crafte in the tyme that they been in their offices, that then and as ofte as the pson so despysyng the mayster and the wardeyns foresaid shall pay iiii. pownde of wex to the chapell of the said crafte and if he refuse so to paye then he to be putte out of ye said craft.

"Also in salvacion and maintenance of the peas of our sov'gn lorde the king, it is ordeyned that if any p'son of the crafte be funde a mayntenor of quarellys, debatour distourbor of the peas or ynconvenyently goyng in the nyght for to make or maynteyne riot or debate that hit shulde please the mair eny suche p'son to cause to be arrestyd and to putte hym in warde at the request of the maister of the said craft and so in warde to abyde and remayne unto the time that he be duely chastyd by ye good advys of the mair and his counsaill.

"Also if any Tellour of the said crafte lose by his evyll workayng cloth or garment to hym delyv'd to be cutte, if the possessour and delyv'er of the sayd cloth will thereof complayne to the mayster and wardeyns abovesayde. The said maister and wardeyns shal be advysed of the defautes and yf suche been fownde that the said garment may not convenyently aserve the possessour and delyv'er. Then if the same possessor and delyv'er wylle certefye by hys othe the said maister and werdeyns howe muche the cloth coste hym, the costys to hym shalbe fully geven and payed and the Garment shall remayne w't the Taillour as hys owne good, and so every taillour shalbe bettyr advysed to cutte welle and sufficiently the cloth that is unto hym delyv'd to be cutte.

"Also if any Taillour not enfraunchised be fownde usyng or occupiyng

the crafte of Taillours in eny place prevely or odynly w'yn the fraunchise of Bristowe that every such shall paye to the mair xid, and to the said craft xid, in sustennce of powre peopill of the said crafte, and that at every time that he may be fownde woorkyng in the craft of Taillours in maner above said yf hit be not within the housys of burgesses of the said craft and Towne and to the use and p'fit of the said Burgeises."

"HERE BEGYNNETH YE ORDYNANCES OF THE CRAFT OF TAILOURS OF THE FRATERNITE OF SEINT JOHN THE BAPTISTE Y ORDEYNED WTYNNE HEM SELFE.

"First it is ordeyned that all the bretheren of ye craft of taillors shal be warned for to come to the haulle of the crafte abovesaid or to an other honeste place by the maistres assyngnyg every yer on the moneday nexte sewyng after wyt sonday. There for to chese a newe mayster in comune for the yer nexte after sewyng. And that no Brother of the craft be absent ther hennes w'out cause resonable upon peyne of iiii pounde of wex to paye to the use of the chapel of the craft forsaid.

"Also what brother of the craft that is y chose for to be maister and keper of the fraternite and of the crafte abovsaid for the yer next sewyng and he refuse the eleccion and wol not take the charge upon hyme wtoute cause resonable whiche maie be proved be for all the companye he shall pay to the common boxe an C. s of sterlynges wtout eny relece.

"Also what brother of the crafte (delit.) toforsaid that is chose for to be wardenie of the same craft for the yer next sewyng and he refuse to take ye charge upon hym, w't out cause resonable he shalle pay to the comune boxe xx.s of sterlynges in sustenance of the poure Brothren of the crafte abovesaid.

"Also yef any brother of the craft or fraternity toforsaid absent him from the company at the day abovsayd by cause that he woll not take eny

of the charges above saide, and he by comune assent of his brothern be chose to eny of the offices byforsayd that longyth to the same crafte he shall fulfille the office that he is chose to for the yer nexte sewyng upon payne aboveseid whether he be present other absent.

"Also that no man of ye craft of taillours holde opene schoppe, ne worche openly eny sonday other eny other double fest day (del.) holy in holy churche upon peyne of one pound wex at the fyrst defaute w'oute eny relece. And at the secunde defaute he shall pay ii pounde of wex, and at the therdde defaute he shall pay to the comune boxe xid. of sterlynges in sustenaunce of the pour bretheren abovesaid.

"Also yf eny man of the craft abovesaid blame other disprese eny other mannes name of his crafte making and he be thereof convycte he shall pay at the first defaute one pounde of wex w'tout eny relese, at the secunde defaute he shall pay xid. of sterlynges to the comune box in sustenaunce of the pour brethren above saide.

"Also whane eny brother of the craft is warned to come to the chapelle by the wardeyns other by the bedulle other to eny other place by the maister assyngned for diverse thynges nedeful to be do, that he come at the howre that he is y sette, upon payne of one pounde wex, bote yf he maie resonable be excused.

"Also whan there is a brother other soster dede, all the brethern of the fraternite and craft abovesaid schoulde gadre togedris at the chapelle of the fraternite and folwe the maister of the fraternite in ther lyveraye, and that none of them offir at the masse in to tyme that the maister go to fore, and ther mowe go to gedris with hym, upon payne of one pounde wex to the ligte of the chapelle.

"Also yf eny straunge sower come to the towne of Bristow to dwelle ther and occupie the said craft w'out lycence of the maister and wardeyns over xv dayes he shall pay to the maister of the fraternite to the sustenaunce of the lygte and the pore brotherne of the said crafte xiid and to the (delit.) sowers viiid.

"Also every of the taillors that holdeth open shoppe i (and) bith noo

brotherne of the said crafte schul pay to the light and for drynkyng on midsomer nyght and seint Peter's nygt iiiid.

"Also every man of the same craft that refylith the maister or the wardeyns ther beyng in here office shall pay to the alms men of the same craft iiis. iiiid. wiout eny foryeveness."

ORDINAUNCES AND STATUTES AGREED UPPON AND APPOINTED BY THE MASTER AND MASTERS OF THE SOCIETE AND MYSTERY OF TAYLORS W'T THE CONSENT OF THE WHOLE HOUSE TO ENDURE FOR EVERMORE.

"In primis that the wardens of the jornye men doe waren all the jornye men to come to the Halle and there to pay theyr quarteredge to the wardens for that tyme the Monday before the quarter daye."

"Item. that the wardens of the jornye men have a chest w'h thre lockes and thre keyes to hit which shall remayne in the hall."

"Item. that of these thre keyes the master have the kepinge of one, the wardens of the jornye men for that tyme of the other and that the third remayne in the handes of the oldest of the jornye men."

"Item. that the mony that is geathered every quarter by the wardens be put into the chest in the preasence of all the jornye men to be keapt for those yt be sicke or aged or fallen into poverty by the hand of God."

"Item. that yf any jorniman despise any of theyr wardens beynge in offyce he pay for every suche defaute xiid."

"Item. that the wardens geave theyr true accowmpt to the master at Midsomer or els forfayte xs."

"Item. that the monye y remayneinge be put into the chest above named for the uses there rehearsed."

"Item. that yf any jorny man be warned by any of the wardens appoynted for that yeare to come to the hall and doth absent him selfe w'howt just cawse he shall pay for the first defawte iiiid. the second viiid. and the third xiid."

"Item. that yf any man refuse to pay this fyne he be expelled and put owt of the company for ever."

"Item. when any jorny man is expelled for this cawse or any other yf there be any master yf there be any I say that puttethe him to worke he shall pay for every tyme vis. viiid."

"Item. yf the master of taylors dothe not to his power see these above named statutes kept and observed deligently he shall forfayt x s."

"Item. yt the next day after midsomer day the nue master takinge his othe the owlde mr. shall read or cawse to be read these statutes to him as part of his othe, which thinge yf the owlde mr. doeth not he shall forfayte xls."

"Item. yt yf any violate or breake any of the above named statutes the monye which is there appointed to be payde for the breache ther of shall be kept for the sustenawnce of poore Brethren of this Societye beynge afflicted w'h any kynd of calamity or miserye.

Made and instituted in the xii yeare of the rayne of owr Soverayne lady Elyzabeth in the yaare of our Lord 1570.

Thomas Owen, Master.

{John Chambers / John Watkins} Wardenes.

THE OTHE FOR THE QUEEN'S MAJESTYE.

"I doe sweare that the Queens most excellent majestye Elizabeth by the grace of God is the right and lawful heyre unto the imperiall and rioll

crowne of this realleme of England and Ireland and that she is the supreme head and governer next and immediately under god of all estates both sperituall and temperall and deniing all forren powers whatsoever they be to challindg any jurisdixtion artority or power within this her magestyes reallme of England to stand to the same to my power as god shall healp me and by the contents of this book."

THE OTHE OF THE COMPANY.

"I William by the healp of almighty god shall from this time forward for terme of my liff trewly shall howld and in my behalf keap all the statutes, ordinances and decres mad and ordaynid conserning the mistery and fellowship of the company of marchant taylors within the citye of Bristoll as hearafter shalbe made by the autority of the charter grantid unto them by the queenes majesty and certayn lords of her majesties prevye counsell for the good government of the same mistry and craft as the governers thereof shall sea good and thatt you shall keap seacret the doinge of the saed company and fellowship and not reveall it to any out of the hall of the said company as god shall healp me.

"Memorandum that the xxviiith day of Auguste the yere of the reigne of king Henrye the sixte after the conquest the xxviiith by the avise of William Canynge mayor of Bristowe, Thomas Hore sheriff of the same Towne, John Burton, Richard fforster, John sharpe the elder, Clemente Bagott, John Shypwarde, John Gravleyghe, Nicholas Hille, William Codder, William Pavye, William Spencer, and Richard Alberton, Bayliffs of the same Towne and all other notable persons of the counsell of the saide Towne assembled in that common Counsell Howse consideringe a supplicacion putt into them in the said Counsell Howse the daye and yere above saide by the good persons of the Crafte of Tayllors, Goldesmythes and

Cordewanors whiche supplicacion remayneth of recorde annexed to an acte and ordinaunce made concerning the matters comprehended in the said supplicacion radd afore the sayde mayor and sheriff and common Councell and by them communed was thought reasonable haven ordeyned establyshed and enacted under the manner that followethe.

" In primis hyt is ordeyned established and enacted that all howseholders and crafteholders of the Crafts of Tayllors Goldesmythes and Cordewayners within the saide Towne and ben aliens and men not borne under the kinges obeysaunce whiche ben of good name and fame and Burgeis dwell styll and abyde in the said Towne and that no suche ne craftholder alien ne none howseholder other howseholder ne craftholder within the said Towne of the said craftes ne none of them hereafter receave no manner apprentice covenaunte man journeye men ne taskers aliene and borne owte of the kinges ligeaunce ne them ne none of them put in occupation in the said Crafte. But onlye the said howseholders and crafteholders alienes and all other howseholders and crafteholders of the said craftes within the saide Towne shall receave and occupye in the sayde Craftes apprentices covenaunte men jorneyemen and Taskers borne under the ligeaunce of our saide soverayne lorde kinge and none other."

" Item hyt is ordeyned established and enacted that all apprentices covenaunte men journeye men and Taskers whiche bene alienes and borne oute of the kinges ligeaunce and nowe ben in service and occupacion in the saide Crafte ben utterlye voyded a thishalf the feaste of Saint Michaell Th'archaungell next comynge. And not after that feaste to be suffred to wirche or labore in the said craftys in anye wise. And whatt howseholder craftholder alien or anye other howseholder or craftholder within the said Towne of the crafte foresaide that any apprentise journeye man covenaunte man or tasker receven or occupien in the saide crafte a contrarye thes ordenaunces shall lese to the use of the Towne of Bristowe xls. And to be deprived and discounaed of their Burgeiswike, and never to be made Burgeis after In wytnes of whiche ordenaunces at the speceall prayer of John Nauchothan master of the

fraterntye of saynte John Baptiste and master of the said craft of Taylours and of other good persons of the saide crafte the seale of the office of mayralte foresaide to this present, we the sayde William Canynge Mayor have comaunded to be sett the daye and yere abovesaide. Inspeximus insuper alias quasdam ordinaciones vicesimo secundo die Septembris anno regni nostri tercio per delectos et fideles nostros Willm Carr ad tunc maiorem Civitatis Bristoll ac alios aldermanes vicecomtes ac alios de consilio dicte civitatis magistro Gardianis ac ceteris omnibus probis hominibus mistere vestiariorum dicte civitatis pro bona gubernacione et utilitate ejusdem mistere concesse facte et inactitat. ac sub sigillo dicte Civitatis hoc tempore exstant in hec verba."

"Memorandum that the xxiind daye of Septembre in the thyrde yere of the rayne of our soverayne ladye Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of Englande ffrance and Ireland defendor of the fayth and at the humble petitions and requests of Richard Bonde now master of the crafte or misterye of Tayllors of the Cyttie of Brystowe Thomas Owen and Gyles Paynter wardens, and of all others the goodmen of the saide crafte, for the good governemente and utilitye of the same crafte. It was fullye graunted and agreed by the worshipfull master Wylliam Carr mayor of the sayde Cyttye david harrys Robert Saxbye William Pepwall Roger Jones Aldermen of the same Cyttye the Sheriffs and other their bretherne of the common counsayle of the said Cyttie in manner and fourme hereafter followinge."

"Ffirste that no Burgeise or other person inhabitinge within this Cytty shall from henceforthe use or practise to cutt or make anye manner of garments or apparell for men women or Chyldren whiche in tymes paste hathe ben accustomably used to be cutt and made by the artificers of the crafte or occupacion of Tayllors unless he be thereto firste allowed and admitted to be of the companye and fellowshypp of the crafte of Tayllors as in aunciente tyme hathe byn used and accustomed within this Cytty uppon payne that the offender shall forfayte xxs. to be equallye devided in three partes, the one parte to master mayor and the masters the aldermen, the other parte to the Crafte and the third to the Chambre. Provided

that the artificers of the crafte of Cordewayners within this cytty maye cloase and stiche, pynche and rase lether jerkins and garments of leather as they have used to doe heretofore."

"Item that no person be allowed or admitted to be of the saide compayne or fellowshipp of Tayllors excepte he hathe been an Apprentice to the saide crafte here or elsewhere and thereof make due proof before the master and companye of the saide crafte for the tyme being by shewinge the Indentures of their Apprentiswick or by testimoniall or by other sufficient wayes or meanes or else to agree with the master uppon payne that the master that shall admitt hym shall forfayte xls. to be divided after the manner and fourme above written Provided that the master of the saide crafte for the tyme being maye uppon reesonable consideracion by the Seniors that have been masters of the saide crafte or of the more parte of them admytt into the fellowshipp and companye by waye of redempcion for a reesonable fyne anye honest person beinge a good woorkeman. Although he hath not been an Apprentice to the same crafte."

"Item that no person within this Cytte shall from henceforthe cutt make or sell anye womens hose excepte he be first admitted into the fellowshipp of the said crafte of Tayllors upon payne to forfate for every defaute xxs. to be devided as is aforesaid."

"Item that everye master and householder of the saide crafte and fellowshipp of Tayllors shall paye yerelye to rente xiid. that is to saye at every quarter iiid. to the master of the saide crafte for the tyme beinge or to his assignes uppon payne of ymprisonmente theare to remayne untyll he hathe payde his sayde deutye."

"Inspeximus etiam multas alias ordinaciones vicesimo octavo die marcii anno regni nostri terciodecimo coram dilectis et fidelibus nostris Willo Tucker maiore dicte Civitatis Bristoll ac aliis aldermanis ac vicecomtibus et ceteris probis hominibus communis consilii ejusdem Civitatis ad tunc in Guildhalda dicte Civitatis congregat. pro utilitate Reipublicæ et bona gubnacione predicte mistere vestiariorum dicte

Civitatis Bristol fact' et inact ac sub commun. sigillo dicte civitatis ad presens exstant in hec verba. In Dei nomine. Amen."

"Thes be the ordenaunces made and established in the Crafte of Tayllors in Bristowe of Seynt John Baptiste by vertue of lybertyes and licences to them graunted by letters patents of Kinge Rycharde the seconde, and confyrmed and ratified by letters patents of King Henrye the fourthe, and so from tyme to tyme have ben continued beinge enrolled in the Guildhall of Bristowe in the tyme of William ffrownce mayer of the same Cyttye in the seconde yere of Kinge Henrye the fowrthe by the assente of all the common councell of the same cyttye there assembled to endure for ever."

"Ffirste yt is ordeyned by vertue of the Charters of our lorde the kinge thatt everye yere at the feaste of Pentecostes comonlye called Whytsontyde, upon the mundaye next ensuyng after Whytsondaye all the whole companye of the crafte abovesaide shalbe warned to come to the halle of the saide crafte by the masters assigninge theare for to electe a newe master in comynge for the yere nexte ensuinge. And that no crafteholder of the said crafte shall absent hymself therehence withowte cause resonable whiche may be proved before all the companye uppon payne of iii. ivd to be payde to the use of the poore of the crafte aforesaide."

"Also what brother of the crafte abovesaide that is chosen and elected to be master and keper of the sayde crafte for the yere nexte ensuinge shall refuse the eleccion and will not take the chardge uppon hym withowte cause ressonable whiche may be proved before all the companye he shall paye to the common boxe an hundrethe shyllinge sterlinge withowte anye relente. Also whatt brother of the crafte aforesayde that is chosen to be warden of the saide crafte for the yere nexte ensuynge shall refuse his election and wyll not take the chardge uppon hym withoute cause ressonable he shall paye to the common boxe twentye shyllinges to the sustaynninge of the poore of the said crafte."

"Also yf anye brother of the saide crafte absente hym from the companye at the daye abovesayde because he will not take uppon hym anye of the

chardges abovesaide, and he by common assente of his brothers be chosen to anye of the offices aforesaide that longethe unto the saide crafte he shall fulfill the office that he is chosen unto for the yere next ensuinge uppon the payne abovesaide whether he be present or absent."

"Item that the saide master and wardens shall everye yere againste the feaste daye of the natyvytye of St. John Baptiste ordayne kepe and holde a dynner to all the brothers that thyther comythe or mighte come, and that everye brother or crafteholder theare beinge shall paye for his commons of the saide dynner after the ordenuance of the sayde master and wardens and yf any brother or crafteholder of the saide crafte be absent at the dinner abovesaide he shall paye the halfe parte of that the other payethe the whiche byn present: and that every brother or crafteholder shall pay for the commons of his saide dynner within one moneth nexte after the saide feaste uppon payne to be putt owte of the saide crafte for evermore."

"Item that the newe master at the saide feaste of Saynte John Baptiste in the middle of the dynner shall receave of the owlde master a garland or whood and shall putt yt uppon his heade in signe and token of his election the whiche newe master at that same time shall choose by assente of his brothers there beinge fower wardens and at their eleccion bothe master and wardens shall in the said hall make their bodelye othe to governe well and lawfullye the saide crafte and all theire lybertyes and good ordenaunces and that the saide master and wardens at every tyme that anye thinge of chardge tochinge the sayde crafte shalbe made and ordeyned that theye shalbe assembled and com together and that none of them doe anye thinge of chardge withowte others and that in the ende of the sayde yere the master and the foure wardens shall yelde a laufull accompte to the newe master and wardens of the yere followinge before fower auditors to be appoynted by the senior masters and to them shall yelde and deliver all the goodes remayninge to the saide crafte with the arrerages if anye be."

"Item that the saide master and wardens maye choose a Beadle to gather theyre rentes and all duytyes pertayninge to the saide

crafte and to warne the crafteholders as often as he is warned by the master and wardens."

"Item. that every Brother or Crafteholder of Tayllours that is reesonablye warned to come to the hall at a certayne day and houre to hym assigned by the wardens or bedyll shall come at the howre that to hym is appoynted excepte he have reesonable cause to be absente upon payne of forfayture for the fyrste defaute vid. and at the seconde defaute xiid. and at the thirde defaute ii s. whiche forfeytures shall remayne to the maynetenaunce of the poore and yf the said partye so ofendinge refuse to paye his amercements being laufullye demaunded the master for the tyme beinge shall by vertue of his office commytt the said partye so offendinge to warde theare to remayne untyll he have payde his sayde amercements for his trespasse."

"Item. yf theare be anye debate or discorde betwene anye of the said companye or fellowship of Tayllors that the partyes so at debate shall stande at the awarde and ordenaunce of the master for the tyme beinge and his brothers senior masters which master for the tyme being and brothers shall name and chose fower indifferante men of the saide companye or fellowshypp withowte anye affecion or parcialetye which fower men so chosen shall not refuse to serve in that behalf accordinge to the masters comaundemente uppon payne of forfayture of iiis iiid to be payde to the use of the poore in the same crafte withowte anye release or favour, which saide fower men shall consider equallye and justelye betwene the said partyes so at debate and shall cease fyne or fynes uppon the offender or offendors accordinge to the trespasse or offense, and the said offender or offendors shall paye everye sutche fyne or fynes so seysed or levyed by the said fowermen uppon payne to be putt owte of the said crafte ontyll he hauve payed the sayed fyne or fynes accordinge to the true meaninge of this ordenaunce."

"Also yt is ordyned and established that no man of the crafte of tayllours within this cyttye shall be received to hauve ffraunches or ffreedom nor holde his crafte of the crafte aforesayd unles he haue byn apprenticed within the saide cyttye to the saide crafte and that his master

with whom he hathe byn apprentyced shall come to the master and wardens for the tyme beinge and to the senior masters and give testemonnye for his apprentice that he hathe ben a true and just servaunte and that he hathe served his master trulye and justelye all the tyme of apprentisshypp accordinge to the good wholsom lawes of this realm uppon the whiche testemonye the master and the senior masters shall recaue the saide apprentice accordinge to the good and wholsom orders of the saide crafte. Prouvided alwayes that yt shalbe laufull for the saide master with the assent agremente of the senior masters by waye of redemption and composicion to receave and admytt into the saide crafte anye honeste person or persons that have bene apprentice in the saide crafte in anye place and seruved the terme of seaven yeres brynginge testemonye with hym and them of the full servinge of the same terme of his apprentice-wicke so that also sutche person and persons shalbe found expert and parfecte in the same science and agreable to all good orders in this ordenaunce expressed."

"Item. that noe manner of person of the same Crafte of Taylours shalbe receaved to have freedom in the saide crafte untyll he be tryed by fower laufull woorkemen of the saide crafte appoynted by the master for the tyme beinge whether he be a laufull woorkeman and full perfecte of and in his crafte and also of good conversacion and lyvinge whiche person beinge founde and apte and meete woorkeman accordynge to the true meaninge of this ordenaunce the master of the crafte and wardens for the tyme beinge the senior masters shall present the saide partye to the master mayor for the tyme beinge and to all the courte that he is a person hable of good condicion and name and full parfecte of and in his crafte. The whiche person so presented and enabled to master mayor and the alderman by the saide master and wardens withe the senior of the masters. Then he shalbe receaued to his fredome Payinge his fyne and his fees accordinge to the good orders of the saide cyttye.

"Item. yt is ordeyned that all person and persons that shalbe receawed and admytted into the saide crafte by composicion redempcion suite or

anye other wayes or meanes shall in the tyme of sutche his admyssion take a corporall othe uppon the hollye evangeliste of God before the master and companye accordinge as hathe bene heretoforetyme used and accustomed well and trulye for to observe maynetayne fulfill and duylye kepe to his powere all the ordenaunces decrees and statutes in the same crafte made and established. And if anye shall refuse so to take his othe then he shall not be admytted into the saide craft nor shalbe suffred to worke therein but accepted as straunger and foreyner."

"Item. yt is further ordeyned that noe person of the crafte abouve sayed shall make anye suyte to be free of the cyttye of Bristowe untyll he be presented a master mayour and the justices by the master or the masters of the crafte and his brothers as is above sayde as a man apte and mete for to be free. And if the saide partye shall wyllinglye make anye suyte or by any other meanes seke his fredome contrarye to this ordenaunce he shall forfaite for his offence xiiis and iiiid the one half to master mayour and the aldermen and the other to the crafte afore saide. And if the partye soe offendinge shall refuse to paye his fyne he shall lose the benefyte of his fredome for ever."

"Item. yt is ordeyned that yf the master of the saide crafte shall make any man free or admytt him into the crafte secretelye without the consent of his wardens and the senior part of the masters and wardens the saide master shall forfayte and lese fortye shyllinges withowte anye forgiveness the one half to master mayer and the aldermen and the other half to the sustenaunce of the poore of the saide crafte and yett the partye so by hym made free shall stand as a forrayner agayne anything in this ordenaunce to the contrarye in anye wise not withstandinge."

"Item. that noe person or persons shall cutt make nor sell anye kind of garmente or garmentes within the saide cyttye and lybertyes thereof for man woman or chylde excepte he be in franchised and made free of the same crafte uppon payne to forfayte and lose twentye shyllinges for

everye defaute to be divided as is aforesaide. Nor that anye person or persons beinge forrayners and not free of the companye shall repayre to this cyttye or lybertyes to the intente to sett anye kynde of garmente for man woman or chylde to make the same in anye place and yf anye person or persons shall offende herein then yt shalbe laufull for the master of the crafte or the wardens withe their officers or bedyll appoynted to strayne uppon the saide garmente or garmentes so cutt or made withowte molestacion of anye howseholder within the saide cyttye and to bringe them to the comon hale theare to remayne untyll the fyne of VIS. and VIIId. shall be payde for everye defaute and yt to be divided th'one half to the use of the mayor for the tyme beinge and the other moytye to the use of the said crafte."

"Item that noe covenaunte servaunte, journeyman or apprentise shall holde or kepe a servaunte or apprentise under hym openlye or privily untyll he be infranchised in manner and fourme abouesaide and yf anye soe doe the master and wardens for the tyme beinge shall take the apprentise or servaunte and deliuer hym to a master of the crafte as is aforesaide accordinge to the order in that behalf prouided, and the servaunte soe offendinge shall forfayte and loase XIIIS. IIIId. the one half to the mayor and aldermen and the other half to the crafte as is aforesaide: And yf the partye so offendinge shall refuse to paye his fyne for his offence dulye approued the master for the tyme beinge shall commytt the saide Offendour to Warde there to remayne untill he haue payde his foresaide fyne."

"Item yf anye journeyeman or servante workinge within the said crafte shall privilye pilfer or conveye anye worke to make the same to his owne profytt eyther in his hoste howse or anye other wheare owte of the saide crafte That then everye sutche journeyeman or servaunte shall not onlye lose his fyne due by the ordenaunce but shall also be disfranchised from workinge within the saide crafte."

"Also yf anye brother or crafte holder within the said crafte shall dispise or speake anye sclaunderouse or raylinge wordes agaynste the master for the tyme beinge whiche maye be justelye approued he

shall paye to the comon boxe VIS. VIIId. withowte anye forgivenes. And yf anye brother or crafteholder shall speake the lyke wordes to the warden or wardens for the tyme beinge shall paye IIIS. IVd. to the common boxe withoute anye forgivenes."

"Item that noe manner of parson within the saide crafte shall comence anye action againste anye of the said crafte withowte licence of the master for the tyme beinge uppon payne of VIS. VIIId. to be payde to the maynetenaunce of the poore of the crafte."

"Prouided alwayes that the master shall not refuse to give leave to anye of the saide crafte to comence the lawe yf the matter maye not otherwise be ended."

"Item that no crafteholder within the said crafte beinge putt owte of the saide companye by the comon consente and agremente of the saide crafte for anye notoriouse offence as thefte, comon whoredome rebellious disobedience or sutche lyke shall not afterwardes kepe anye journyman servaunte or apprentise at anye tyme untyll he shall uppon due satisfaction for his offence first to be made be restored unto his fredome agayne by the master and brethren of the foresaid crafte."

"Item yf anye person of the saide crafte shall goe awaye for his evill demeanoure or for anye other subtyll polletye to the intente to kepe shopp here in his absence, and also another shopp wheare he is abydinge the same partye so goynge awaye shall holde or kepe no journeyman covenaunte servaunte or apprentice within the crafte abovesaide except he be absente for urgente causes whiche maye be proved before all the companye."

"Item yf anye Crafteholder of the Crafte abouesaide lose by his yll woorkinge anye cloathe or garment to hym deliuered to be cutt yf the possessor and deliuerer of the saide cloathe or garmente wyll thereof complayne to the master and wardens then the saide master and wardens shalbe certified of the defautes and yf yt be founde that the saide garmente wyll not conveniently serve the owner or deliuerer then if the same owner and delyverer wyll certefye by his othe to the master and wardens howe mutche the cloathe coste hym then the same costes shall be given and repayde to

hym by the said offendor or els the saide offendour to remayne in prison untyll he haue compounded and agreed with the saide partye for his trespasse. And yf the saide offendour wyll absente hymself from the master because he wyll not be ordered and compounded for his offence and trespas that then yt maye please mastor mayour for the tyme beinge to discomon the saide offendor from his fredome untyll he haue made a full satisfacion for his trespasse and also submitted hymself agayne to the master of the crafte for his disobedience. Also yf any man of the crafte abouesaid blame or backbyte one another or despise one anothers crafte making and be thereof duylye proved he shall paye for his offence IIIs. IVd. sterling to the comon boxe and for every sutche offence to paye the forfayte fyne withowte forgivenes."

"Item that noe man of the crafte abouesayde shall holde open any shopp to worke openlye uppon the Sabbothe Daye or bydden hollydayes by hollye Churche uppon payne for the fyrste defaute of XIId. the seconde defaute two shyllinges and for the thyrde defaute IIIs. IIIId. to be given to the poore of the saide crafte."

"Item yt is ordeyned for the better preseruation and mayntenaunce of the peace of our soueraigne ladye the Quene that yf anye person of the said crafte be found a mantayner of quarrelles debates or disturber of the peace or goinge at inconveniente season in the nighte for to make or meynetayne ryott or debate the master hauinge knowledge thereof shall by vertue of his office comytt the saide partye so offendinge to warde, and presentlye to shewe master mayour of his offence and misdeamenoure that he maye have further punishemente and be dulye chastised by the good advise of the mayour and justices."

"Item yf any straunge sower come to this cyttye of Bristoll to dwell theare and occupye the said crafte over and above the space of XV dayes he shall paye to the master of the crafte for the maynetenaunce of the poore VIIId. and to the wardens of the sowers XIId. And that the master or masters with whome anye sutch sower shall worke shall answere the some abouesaide at the nexte quarter daye after to the master and wardens

withoute anye delaye uppon payne of sutche furthur punyshemente as is contayned in this ordenaunce for the lyke offence."

"Item yt is ordeyned and agreed that the master of the crafte aforesaide shall not take uppon hym to sende anye person of the sayde crafte to warde by anye other officer or constable but onlye by one of master mayours sergeauntes."

"Item yt is further ordeyned and agreed that yf tenn or twelve of the aunciente masters and eldest of the said crafte withe the master for the tyme beinge doe or shall condescende or agree uppon anye thinge concerninge the comon wealthe of the saide crafte and good governmente thereof whosoever shall make resistaunce against the order so made and ordeyned he shall forfayte and lose for his disobedience VIS. VIIId. the one half to the master mayor and the aldermen and the other halfe to the comon boxe."

"Item that noe p'son or p'sons of the crafte of Tayllours shall kepe or howlde anye standinge or boorde in the highe streate or in anye other streate to sell hose stockinges or anye other sale worke contrarye to this ordinaunce uppon payne to lose for everye defaute XXS. the one halfe to the mayour and the aldermen and the other halfe to the craft abouesaide onlye the fayre tymes excepted."

"Item be yt ordeyned and established that the companye of Tayllours abouesaide everye man accordinge to his habilitye and at his wyll and pleasure shall and maye buye all kindes of cloathes and kerseyes and all other manner of cloathe lynnen and woollen and freelye sell the same agayne or to make the same in garmente to his moste profett and comodetye withowte anye trooble or molestacon of any parson or parsons of the said crafte or anye other restraynte or proviso to be hadd or made heareafter to the contrarye in any wise notwithstandinge."

"Item yf anye brother of the saide crafte that hathe trulye payde and done his duytyes that belongethe to the foresaid crafte fall into povertye or some other ympedimente that he cannot labor to gett his livinge to susteyne hymself withall that then the saide partye maye

repayre to the master and wardens for the tyme beinge and shewe his griefe and necessetye and yelde upp and give his store whiche he hathe to the master and wardens for the tyme beinge to the vse of the saide crafte and the partye shall receave yt agayne by Indenture made betwene the said master and hym uppon sufficiente assuerance to be fyrste putt in for the redeliverye thereof and then the partye to occupye the same goodes for terme of his lyfe and after the decease of the same partye his executors or suretyes shall deliver the said gooddes agayne to the master and wardens for the tyme beinge by the forsayde Inventarye. Prouided alwayes that yf the saide partye haue a wyfe and chyldrenn he shall then trulye devide the gooddes into three equall partes whereof the saide partye hymself to haue one and that porcion whiche fallethe to hym he shall trulye yelde upp to foresaid master and wardens in manner and forme aforesaide and haue agayne the occupyinge thereof duringe his lyfe uppon assueraunce and in consideracion thereof the saide master and wardens shall give unto hym XIId. everye weke of the comon boxe for terme of his lyfe for his releefe. And yf yt be openlye knowen that anye of the saide crafte fall into sutche povertye or nede by playinge at dice cardes and other unlaufull and prohibited games or that he be a nyghte walker hore master glotton comon quarreler a fyghter or given to anye other sutche naughtye vyces wherebye he is broughte to sutche povertye and mischiefe that then everye sutche naughtye person shall holde hym to his chaunce and to his best and shall not clayme any releefe or benefyte at all of the sayde crafte. Moreover yf anye brother or crafteholder lyinge sycke by goddes visitacion as soon as yt is knowen to the master and wardens that then theye in the name of the whole companye shall visitt hym and helpe hym yf yt be nede untyll he be recouered of his sycknes or that God shall call hym to his mercye owte of this worlde."

"Item when anye brother or sister of the sayde crafte shall departe this lyfe and dye within this cyttye or lyb'tyes thereof. Then the master hauinge knowledge of yt shall sende his wardens to warne the whole companye to come to the sayde buriall and theare to give their

attendaunce untyll sutche tyme as the buriall or burialls be ended uppon payne to forfayte for the fyrste defaute VId. for the seconde defaute XIId. and for everye suche defaute the lyke fyne to be given to the poore of the saide crafte. Prouided also that yf the saide brother or sister so dyinge shalbe of sutche pouerty not hauinge of his owne wherewithall to be broughte in yearthe that then everye sutche brother or sister shalbe decently buried at the onlye chardges of the foresayde crafte."

"Item yf anye of the saide companye of the crafte aforesaide shall not from tyme to tyme paye and yelde all sutche some and somes fynes amerciamente and all other duytyes and chardges whiche he oughte to paye contayned in anye of the articles of this ordynaunce by the comaundmente of the sayde master and wardens but shall refuse to do the same then the saide master shall comytt sutche person and persons so refusinge unto warde by the mayors sergeaunte where he shall abyde untill he satisfye the same duytyes. Et postquam omnes et singule ordinaciones prescripte coram venerabilibus viris magistris Willelmo Tucker maiore civitatis Bristoll, Davidae Harys Roberto Sayce Willelmo Pepwall Rogero Jones et Willelmo Carr Aldermannis Willelmo Hixe et Johe Barnes Jun., Vicecomtibus et ceteris probis hominibus communis Consili praedictae civitatis Bristoll adtunc in Guihalda Bristoll congregatis publice prelecte erant et per eos mature discussae, tandem visum eis fuerat quod ordinaciones omnes et singule erant bone et pro utilitate Reipublice et bona gubernacione dictae misterae easdemque igitur ordinaciones et quamlibet partem earumdem eorum communi assensu et concensu ac voluntate expresse concenserunt ordinaverunt approbârunt confirmâverunt et ratificarunt perpetuo durantur. In cujus rei testimonium sigillum commune dictæ civitatis Bristoll, presentibus est appensum. Datum Guihalda Bristoll, prædictæ vicesimo octavo die marcii anno regni dominae nostræ Elizabeth dei gratia Angliæ Franciæ et Hibernæ reginæ fidei defensoris et terciodecimo et anno d'ni millesimo quingentessimo septuagessimo primo. Et hoc omnibus quorum interest aut interesse poterit in notesimus per presentes."

"In cujus rei testimonium has literas nostras fieri fecimus Patentes, Teste me ipsa apud Westm. septimo die Maii anno regni nostri terto decimo."

"**To all people to whom this present wrytinge shall come.** Thomas Bromley knight Lorde chauncellor of England William Cicill knight Lorde Burghley lorde high trasorer of England and Christofer Wray knight Lorde cheif Justice of the Quenes Benche Sende greetinge in our lorde god everlastinge Whereas in a certen acte of parliament of the late most noble prince kinge Henry the Seauenth holden at west'm the xxvth daye of January in the Nyneteneth yere of his reigne made and ordeyned for the weale and proffitt of his subjects It was emongest other things ordeyned established and enacted. That no master wardens and ffellowshipp of crafts or misteries or any of them nor any rulers of Guyldes or fraternyties shoulde take uppon them to make any act or ordyn'nces ne to execute any act or ordyn'nces by them before that tyme made in disherytn'nce or deminicion of prerogature of the kinge nor of other nor against the comon proffitt of the people, But yf the same act or ordyn'nces were examyned and approved by the Chauncellor Treasorer of Englande or cheif Justices of either Benche or Three of them or ells before bothe the Justices of Assises in their circuite or prograsse in that shiere wheare suche acts or ordyn'nces be made uppon payne of forfeyture of ffortie poundes for euery tyme that they do the contrarye as the said acte of parliament more playnely dothe appere Know ye that John Watkyns nowe master of the company and ffellowshippe of the mysterye of Marchaunt Taylors of the cittie of Bristowe Edwarde Bradly and Philippe Williams wardens of the same with the whole assent and consent of the saide ffellowshipp and companye willinge and desyringe the saide acte of

parlyament in all and euery thinge to be dulye obserued and kept the sixte daie of maye in the one and Twentith yeare of the reigne of oure souereigne Lady Quene Elizabeth haue exhibited their bill of Peticion unto us earnestlye requestinge that wee accordinge to the Saide acte of parlyament woulde p'vse examyne approve and allowe suche act and ordynaunces as the saide master wardens and companye for the better governement contynuance order and mayntenance of their saide company and ffellowshipp of the saide misterie uppon good deliberacion haue made and devised as well by vertue of l'res patent made and graunted to the saide ffellowshipp and companye by the late kinge Richard the Seconde confirmed and ratified by kinge Henry the ffourth as also by other addicions graunted by the Maiors Bretheren and comen councell of the saide cittie of later tymes and with the same peticion haue presented vnto vs a Booke conteyninge their saide Acts and ordynances The tenours whereof hereafter ensue.

The chosinge of a new master.

In Primis it is ordered established and decreed that euery yere upon the Mundaye next ensuinge after Whitsonday all the howseholders of the ffelloweshipp of the Marchaunte Taylors of ye cittie of Bristowe aforesaide shalbe warned by the two wardens and Bedell of the saide companye or by one of them by the appoyntment of the saide master for the tyme beinge to come repayre to the saide Hall of the saide crafte there for to electe and chose a newe master for the yere next ensuinge and that no person or persons of the saide mysterie or crafte shall absent himself therehense without cause reasonable upon payne that euery person offendinge herein shall forfaite and paye the some of three shillings foure pence of laufull money of Englande to be paide to the vse of the poore of the crafte aforesaide."

Penaltie for refusing to be master.

"Item it is also ordered established and decreed that yf any Brother of the saide companye or crafte which shall hereafter be elected and chosen a master as is aforesaide for the yere ensuyinge shall refuse to take the same upon him without cause reasonable then the same brother and brothers and euery of them so refusinge shall forfaite and paye to the comon boxe there the some

of one hundred shillings sterlinge without anye release to the vse of the poore of the saide misterye or crafte."

A penaltie for refusinge to be Warden.

"Item it is ordered established and decreed that yf any brother of the said misterie or crafte which hereafter shalbe chosen to be a Warden of the same shall refuse to take the same uppon him or to execute the laufull comaundement of the master of the saide misterie for the tyme beinge without cause reasonable then the same Brother and Bretheren and euery of them so refusynge shall forfaite and paye to the comon boxe aforesaide the some of twentie shillings of laufull englishe money to the sustenaunce of the poore of the saide misterye or crafte."

A penaltie for absence.

"Item it is futher ordeyned established and decreed that yf any brother of the saide crafte absente him from the saide companye at the daye and place abouesaid to the intent he will not take uppon him any of the charges abouesaid and by comon assent of his bretheren shalbe chosen to any of the offices aforesaide, the same brother so absent shall nevertheles take uppon him the execucion of the same office whervnto he shalbe so chosen for one whole yere uppon payne to forfaite and paie as is aforesaide videl't the person so refusinge to be master a hundred shillings and euery person so refusinge to be Warden twentie shillings of laufull money of Englande to the comon boxe and vse aforesaide."

The master and Wardens dinner and contribucon.

"It is ordeyned established and decreed that the saide master and wardens for the tyme beinge shall euery yere uppon the feast daye of the Natyvitie of St John Baptist ordayne kepe and holde A dynner of reasonable and conuenyent dyett for the companye and not of excessyue charge for all the Brothers of the saide ffellowshipp that thether will repayre or come And that euery brother or craft holder there beinge shall paye toward the charge thereof to the maister for the tyme beinge accordinge to the discretions of the saide master and wardens so as the charge so asseassed do not exceade the some of two shillings five pence to any person for any suche Dynner And yf any brother or

craft holder of the saide craft shalbe absent from the same Dynner he shall paye the halfe parte of that which one of the other beinge present shall paye And that euery brother and craft holder shall paye his and their assesment towardes the saide Dynner within one moneth next after the saide feaste uppon reasonable demaund therof made at the mansion house of suche brother of the said misterye uppon payne to be putt owt of the saide fellowshipp foreuermore."

An election of the wardens.

"Item it is ordeyned established and decreed that the master for the yere past and endinge at the saide feaste of St John Baptist yerely in the middle of the dinner aforesaide shall putt on uppon his headd a Garlande or whoodde and forthwith shall take of the same and putt it uppon the headd of the partie that shalbe the newe master in signe and token of his election the which newe master at that same tyme shall chose by the assent of his brothers there beinge fower wardens And at their election both the saide newe master and wardens shall in the saide hall take their corporall othe to their power to governe well and lawfully the saide ffellowshipp and to maynteyne all their lawfull liberties and good ordynaunces duringe theire saide yere And that the saide master and wardens at euery tyme that any thinge of charge towchinge the saide fellowshipp shalbe made and ordeyned shall all assemble and come together and none of them do any thinge of charge without the assent of the others or the more p'te of them And that at the ende of euery yere from tyme to tyme the master and the fower wardens shall yelde a trewe accompte to the newe master and wardens of the yere following before fower Auditors to be appoynted by the senior master of the said fellowshipp and to them shall yelde and delyuer all the goodds and chattells and money in their possession p'teyninge to the saide fellowshipp."

An election of a Beaddell.

"Item it is ordayned established and decreed that the saide master and wardens for the tyme beinge maye chose a Bedell to gather theire rent and all other duties p'teyninge to the saide ffellowshipp and to warne all and euery suche personne and persons as

are free of the saide fellowshipp or mistery accordinge vnto suche comaundement as shalbe geuen vnto him by the same master and wardens uppon payne of Imprisonment by the discretion of the saide master for the tyme beinge."

Kepinge of howers and places uppon warning.

"Item it is ordayned established and decreed that euery Brother or fellowe of the saide mistery of Taylers which hereafter shalbe warned either in person or at his dwellinge howse to come to the saide Hall or any other place certen at a daye and hower to hym assigned by the wardens or Beadell shall repayre and come to the saide Hall or place at the hower that to him shalbe appoyned excepte he haue a reasonable cause to be absent and not departe therhence before the saide company without licence of the saide master uppon payne of forfayture for the firste defaulte five pence and at the seconde defaulte twelve pence and at the thirde default two shillings of laufull money of Englande to be paide to the master for the tyme beinge towardes the mayntenaunce of the poore of the saide companye."

The othe to the Quenes majieste.

"Item it is ordayned and decreed that all and singuler the masters with their wardens and all other officers and ministers of the saide Sosyetie or ffellowshipp whatsoeuer which are or shalbe hereafter chosen and elected into any office or mistery of the saide felowshipp shall at the tyme of their firste entrye into the same take a corporall othe uppon the holy Euangelist touchinge their obedyence towardes the Quenes maiestie made and sett forth in the Parliament holden westm in the ffirste yere of her maj's reigne conteyned and expressed in the Statute intituled an Acte restoringe to the crowne the Auncient Jurisdiction over the state ecclesiasticall, spirituall and abollishinge all forraigne power repugnant to the same."

An othe to kepe the orders of the howse.

"Item it is also ordered and decreed that all person and persons that shalbe receaued and admitted into the saide felowshipp by composition redempcon seruice or any other waies or meanes shall at the time of suche his admission take a corporall othe upon the holye euangeliste of god before the master and company accordinge

as hath bene heretofore tyme vsed and accustomed well and truly to obserue maynteyne fullfill and dulye kepe to his power all the ordynaunces decrees and statutes made and established or to be made and established for the good governemente of the saide fellowshipp. And yf any shall refuse so to take his othe then he shall not be admitted into the saide fellowshipp."

None but prentises to be admytted neither shall any straunger hauing byn apprentice so long howsholders of Taylors remayne in Bristowe.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that no person shalbe allowed or admitted to be of the saide companye or felowshipp of Taylors except he haue ben or shall hereafter be an apprentice to the saide crafte within the saide cittie or elswheare and thereof make due proofe before the master and companye of the saide misterye for the tyme beinge in theire comon Hall by shewinge the Indentures of their Apprentiswike or by testimoniall or by other sufficient wayes or meanes or otherwise doe agree with the saide master and the wardens uppon payne that the master and wardens which shall admitt anye suche person or persons contrary to this article shall forfaite for euery suche offence ffortye Shillinges of laufull Englishe money to be equally divided in three p'tes videl't the one p'te to the maior and Aldermen of the saide cittie the other p't to the poore of the saide fellowshipp of Taylers and the thirde to the chamber of the saide cittie. Neither shall it be laufull for the saide master and wardens nor to any of them to admitt into the saide felowshipp or company any straunger, although he hath serued as an apprentice out of the saide cittie so longe as the nomber of XXXVI howsholders of the saide mistery shalbe inhabitinge within the saide cittie uppon payne yt the master and wardens which shall admitt any suche person contrary to the purport and trewe meaninge hereof shall forfaite for euery suche offence the some of £VI. VIIIs. IIIId. of Laufull English money to be equally divided in three parts as is aforesaide videl't the one part to ye maior and Aldermen of ye saide cittie the other parte to ye poore of the saide felowshipp of Taylors, and the thirde to the chamber of ye cittie of Bristowe aforesaide."

"It is ordered and decreed that no maner of person of ye same mistery of Taylors shalbe receaued to haue freedome in the saide crafte untill he be tryed by fower laufull workemen of the saide mistery appoynted by the master for ye tyme beinge whether he be a laufull workeman and p'fect of and in his saide mistery, and also of good conuersacon and lyvinge, which person beinge founde an apte and meete workman and of good conuersacon accordinge to ye trewe meaninge of this ordenaunce the master of the saide felowshipp and wardens for the tyme beinge with the senior masters shall present to ye maior of ye cittie aforesaide for ye tyme beinge and to his bretheren the Aldermen then beinge with him with informac'on that he is a person able of good condic'on and name and p'fect of and in his crafte the which person so presented and inabled to ye maior and Aldermen by the saide master and wardens with ye senior of ye masters then shalbe receaued to his freedome payinge his fyne and his fees accordinge to ye good order of ye saide cittie."

Workemen to be tryed before their ffreedome.

"Item it is further ordered and decreed that no person of ye mistery or crafte abouesaide shall make anye suite to be free of ye saide cittie of Bristowe untill he be presented to ye maior and ye justices of peace within the saide cittie by the master of ye saide crafte and his bretheren as is abouesaide as a man apte and meete to be free. And yf ye saide p'tie shall willingly make any sute, or by any other meanes seeke his freedome contrary to this ordynaunce he shall forfaite and paye for his offence xxs. of laufull money of Englande to be paide to ye saide master for ye tyme beinge whereof ye one half shalbe to ye vse of ye maior and Aldermen aforesaide and ye other half to ye vse of ye poore of ye saide felowshipp of Taylors. And yf ye p'tie so offendinge shall refuse to paye ye saide some of twentie shillings he shall lose ye benefitt of his fredom foreuer of ye felowshipp of ye saide marchaunte Taylors."

None shall sue to be free without the maister's consent.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that ye master of the saide felowshipp for ye tyme beinge shall not make any man free or admitt him into the felowshipp aforesaide without ye consent of ye fower wardens or of two of them for ye tyme beinge or of ye senior of the masters."

The master shall make none free without ye wardens' consent.

"Item it is further established and ordayned yt it shalbe laufull for eu'y one that hath ben master of ye company and felowshipp of Taylors within ye saide cittie of Bristowe to keepe three Apprentises and not aboue at one tyme And to eu'yone that hath bene twyse warden of ye saide felowshipp to keepe two apprentises and not aboue and to eu'yone that hath not ben warden to keepe one apprentice and not aboue uppon payne that eu'yone that doth contrary to ye trewe meaninge of this Article shall forfaite and lose for e'y suche defaulte £III VIs. VIIId. to be deuyded in two partes that is to witt the one parte thereof to ye vse of ye maior and aldermen of ye saide cittie of Bristowe for ye tyme beinge and the other parte to ye vse of ye poore of ye company and fellowshipp aforesaide."

The number of prentises to be kept.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that no covenaunt seruaunt jorneyman or apprentise shall holde or keepe a servant or apprentise under him openly or priuely untill he be infraunchised in maner and forme abouesaid. And yf any so doe ye master and wardens for ye tyme beinge shall take ye Apprentise or seruant and deliuer him to a master of ye crafte as is aforesaide accordinge to ye order in that behalf provided. And ye seruant so offendinge shall forfaite and lose VIIIs. IIIId. of laufull money of Englande ye one half to the maior and Aldermen of ye saide cittie and ye other halfe to the vse of the poore of the saide crafte as is aforesaide."

One servaunt shall not kepe an other.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that yf any Jorneyman or seruant vsing ye saide crafte within ye saide cittie shall prively receaue any worke to ye intent to make the same in seacret whersoeer and to take money or any other rewarde therfore to his owne vse that then euery suche Jorneyman or servaunt shall not only forfaite the some of tenne shillings sterlinge to be devided in two partes videl't the one parte to the maior and Aldermen and ye other parte to ye vse of the poore of the saide Crafte as is aforesaide but shall also be disfraunchised from workinge in ye said crafte within ye saide Cittie forevermore."

No servaunt shall make worke for his owne profitt.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that if any person or persons whatsoeuer of ye saide Crafte or mistery doe or shall at any tyme or tymes from hensforth slocke entyce p'cure or allure by any waye or maner of meanes whatsoeu' any servaunte or servauntes of ye saide crafte or misterie to departe or unlaufully absente themselues out and from ye seruice of his saide master. That then all and euery suche person or persons so offending contrary to this Article shall forfaite and paye for every suche offence the some of five shillings and eightpence to be devided in two parts videl't the one halfe to ye maior and Aldermen of ye saide Cittie and the other to the poore of the company or felowshipp of Taylors aforesaide."

Entysinge of seruantes to departe.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that yf any Jorneymen or seruante of the saide crafte be comon loyterers or comon players wherby and by reason whereof may ensue brybinge privie pilfyringe and thefte contrary to ye lawes and statutes of this realme and will not worke in ye saide crafte with their saide masters in the same crafte when they shalbe therevnto reasonaible requyred by their saide masters but rather lyue Idelly inmispendinge of their tyme. That then also eu'y such servaunt or Jorneyman so founde leadinge an Idell lyfe shalbe by vertue of this Article clearlye discharged and dismissed by ye master and wardens of and from ye saide crafte or mistery. And that no person or persons of ye same crafte from thensforth shall presume to take into his seruice or sett on worke any suche servaunt or Jorneyman by force and vertue of this Article dismissed as aforesaide uppon payne to forfaite and paye for euery tyme as he or they shall so do contrary to this article the some of VIs VIIId to be devided in two partes videl't the one parte to ye saide maior and aldermen and ye other parte to ye poore of ye saide felowshipp or company of Taylors of ye saide Cittie."

Idle Jorneymen and servants.

"Item it is ordered and decreed by this article that no Jorneyman beinge in ye seruice of any of ye said craft or company shall departe out from ye seruice of his saide master without reasonable cause and warninge uppon payne of

No jorneyman to departe without cause or warning.

tenne shillings to be devided in two partes that is to saye the one parte to ye maior and Aldermen and the other parte to ye poore of ye company and felowshipp of ye Taylors of ye cittie of Bristowe aforesaide. And that no man of ye saide Societie or company within ye saide cittie presume to take any suche servaunte or Jorneyman so departinge without cause and lycence upon ye like payne to be devided as is aforesaide."

None shall make garments but Taylors.

"Item it is likewise ordered and decreed that no Burges or other person inhabytinge within ye saide Cittie shall from hensforth vse or practise to cutt or make any manner of Garments or apparell except it shalbe for his owne body or for his wife or childe which in tymes paste hath ben accustomably vsed to be cutt and made by ye Artificers of ye crafte or occupacon of Taylors unles he be firste allowed and admitted to be of ye Companey and felowshipp of ye Crafte of Taylors as in auncient tyme hath ben vsed and accustomed within ye saide Cittie upon payne that e'uy person offendinge this article shall forfaite and paye XXs of Laufull englishe money to be equally devided in three partes videl't the one parte to ye maior and Aldermen of the saide cittie the other parte to ye poore of ye saide craft of Taylors and ye thirde to ye chamber of ye saide cittie."

None shall make or sell woollen hose but Taylors.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that from hensforth it shall not be laufull to any person or persons within ye saide cittie to cutt make or sell any men or womens hose excepte he be firste admitted into ye felowshipp of ye saide crafte of Taylors upon payne that eu'y person offendinge this article shall forfaite and paye for eu'y default xxs of laufull english money to be devided in three partes as is aforesaide videl't the one parte to ye maior and Aldermen of ye saide cittie the other parte to ye poore of ye saide crafte of Taylors and ye thirde to ye chamber of ye saide cittie."

None but of this company shall make or sell garmentes for noe forayner shall fetch worke out of the cittie wardens.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that no person or persons shall cutt make or sell any kynde of garment garments hose or breeches within ye saide cittie and lib'ties therof vnles he be franchised and made free of the saide

crafte (widdowes whose husbandes were free of ye saide crafte duringe the tyme of their wyddowhedd vsinge ye same with one Jorneyman and one apprentice only excepted) uppon payne to forfaite and lose xxs for eu'y defalte to be devided in two partes videl't the one halfe to be paide to ye maior and Aldermen of ye saide cittie and ye other halfe to ye saide master for ye tyme beinge to ye vse of ye poore of ye saide crafte Nor that any person or persons beinge forrayners and not free of ye companye shall repayre to ye saide cittie or l'bities and fetche receaue or take by themselues or any other any kinde of cloth to make any maner of garment or garments or any garment already made to alter or amende for any Burges or inhabit'unte of ye saide cittie And yf any person or persons shall offende herein That then it shalbe laufull for ye master of ye crafte or ye wardens for ye tyme beinge with their officers or Bedell to take ye same cloth garment or garments into their owne custody and possesion and the same to detayne without disturb'unce of any person untill ye offendor therin shall haue paide the some of VIS IIId of Laufull english money whereof ye one halfe shalbe paide to ye maior and Aldermen of ye saide cittie and ye other halfe to ye master aforesaide to ye vse of the saide crafte."

None but Taylors shall set straungers in worke.

" Item it is also ordered and decreed that it shall not be laufull for any inhabit'unt of the saide cittie or liberties of ye same, other then those which be of ye felowshipp of Tailors aforesaide to kepe any Tayler in worke secretly or otherwise in his or theire house or houses or elswhere within ye saide cittie not beinge a freeman of ye saide cittie and company upon payne of forfaiture of xxs sterlinge and that if any person or persons shall offende herein it shalbe laufull for ye m'r and wardens for ye tyme beinge with one of ye Sergeaunts of the maior aforesaide not only to enter into any suche secrett or open place where any suche p'hibted worke shalbe made or in makinge without resistance of any person or persons but also to take awaye ye saide garment made or in makinge and ye same to detayne untill they shal be well and trewly satisfied and paide ye saide some of xxs by the p'tie so

offending, and ye workeman offendinge herein shall paye vis viiid. for e'uy offence upon payne of Imprisonment by the master aforesaide untill he shall haue paide ye same which saide some shalbe paide as is aforesaide videl't the one halfe to ye maior and Aldermen and ye other halfe to the saide master to the use of ye poore of ye company or fellowshipp of Tailors aforesaide."

That none be admitted to vse the saide arte unles he haue ben apprentice.

"Item it is ordayned and decreed that noe person or persons within ye saide cittie shalbe receaued to vse ye saide art or mistery of Taylors crafte unles he haue ben an apprentice within ye saide cittie to ye saide crafte and that his master with whome he hath ben an apprentice shall come to ye master and wardens for ye tyme beinge or to ye senior masters and geue testimony for his apprentice that he hath ben a trewe and just S'unt and that he hath serued his m'r. trewly and justlye all ye tyme of his apprentisshipp accordinge to the good and holsome lawes of this realme upon ye which testymony the mr. and ye senior masters shall receaue ye saide apprentice accordinge to ye good and holsome orders of ye saide crafte provided alwaies that it shalbe laufull for ye saide master with th assent and agreement of ye senior masters by way of redempcon and composicon to receaue and admitt into ye saide crafte any honest person or persons that haue ben an apprentice in ye saide crafte in any place and serued ye terme of seaven years bringing testymony with him and them of ye full servinge of ye same terme of his apprentiswicke. So that also suche person or persons shalbe founde experte or p'fect in ye same science and agreable to all good orders in this ordy'unce expressed."

Spoylers of Garments by yll workemanshipp.

"Item it is also ordered and decreed that yf any of ye felowshipp abouesaid spoyle by yll workmanshipp any cloth or garment to him delyuered to be cutt yf ye owner of ye saide cloth or garment will therof complayne to ye m'r. and wardens for ye tyme beinge. Then ye saide m'r. and wardens shalbe certified of ye defalts and then if defalts be founde in ye saide workeman yf ye same

owner will certefie by his othe to ye m'r. and wardens how muche losse he hath susteyned by ye defalts of ye saide workeman then the same losse and damage shalbe satisfied or repaide to him by the saide offendor or els ye saide offendor to be comitted to prison by the saide m'r. for ye tyme beinge there to remayne untill he haue compounded and agreed with ye saide p'tie for his losse and damage."

Straunge Sower.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that if any straunge sower come to ye saide citte of Bristowe to dwell there and occupie ye saide crafte of Taylors over and aboue ye space of fyftene dayes he shall paie to ye m'r. of ye crafte for the mayntenunce of ye poore VIIId. and to ye wardens of ye sowers XIId. and that ye m'r. or masters with whom any such Sower shall worke shall answere ye some abouesaide at ye next quarter daye after to ye m'r. and wardens for the tyme beinge withowt any delaye uppon payne of ye forfaiture of VIs VIIId to ye saide m'r. to ye vse of ye poore of ye crafte or mistery aforesaide."

Kepinge of standinge or Bourde.

"Item it is likewise ordered established and decreed that no person or persons of ye saide crafte or mistery of Taylors shall kepe or holde any standinge or borde in ye high streate or in any other streate within ye saide cittie or suburbes therof to sell hose stockings or any other sale worke contrary to this ordy'unce uppon payne to lose for every default XXs. to be devided in maner and forme followinge videl't ye one halfe to ye maior and Aldermen of ye saide cittie and ye other halfe to ye saide m'r. to the use of ye poore aforesaide (the ffaire tymes only excepted.)"

Dep'tinge for mysdemeanor or to kepe two shopps.

"Item it is also ordered and decreed that yf any person of ye saide crafte shall departe and go awaye from ye saide cittie for his evill demeanure or for any other subtill pollysie to ye intent to kepe one shopp in ye saide cittie and also another shopp where he shalbe abydinge elswhere The same p'tie so goinge awaye shall holde or kepe no Jorneyman coven'unt servaunt or apprentice within ye cittie abouesaide excepte

he be absent for honest and good causes or Licensed so to doe by ye m'r. and wardens of the saide company for ye tyme beinge."

That Taylors may buy and sell al maner of clothe.

"Item it is further ordered and decreed that the company of Taylors abouesaide e'uy man accordinge to his habillitie and at his and their will and pleasure shall and may buy all kindes of cloathes and kerseis and all other maner of Lynnen and woollen and freely sell ye same agayne accordinge to theire Auncient graunts and vsages or make ye same in garments to his and their most profitt and comodytie without any trouble or molestacon of any person or persons whatsoeuer anythinge herein conteyned or hereafter to be graunted to ye contrarye in anywise not withstandinge."

No shopps to be opened uppon the Sabbaoth or festivall daies.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that no person or persons of ye misterie or felowshipp of Taylors aforesaide shall holde open any shopp to worke openly uppon ye Sabboth daye or other ffestivall dayes ordered to be kept festiuall uppon payne for the fyrste defaulte to forfaite and paie xiid the seconde default iis and for ye thirde defaulte iiis iiiid to be paide to ye saide m'r to the use of ye poore of ye mistery or crafte aforesaide."

A yerely payment of xiid. by eu'y housholder to the mr.

"Item it is also ordered established and decreed that e'uy master and hoseholder of ye saide crafte and fellowshipp of Taylers within ye saide cittie shall paye to ye m'r of ye saide crafte for ye tyme beinge yerely xiid. of Laufull englishe money that is to saye at eu'y quarter iiid. to be ymployed to suche Laudable vse and vses as hath ben heretofore accustomed uppon payne to forfaite for eu'y tyme so not payinge to ye saide quarteredge the some of vis. viiid. to the vse of ye poore of ye saide company."

Notorious offendors.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that no craftholder within ye saide crafte beinge put out of ye saide company by the comon consent and agrement of ye saide crafte for any notory-ouse offence as thefte comon whordom rebellious disobedience or suche lyke shall afterwards keepe any jorneyman seruaunte or apprentice at any tyme untill he shall uppon due satisfaccon for his offence firste to

be made be restored unto his freedom agayne by the master and bretheren of the aforesaide mistery or crafte of Taylors."

"Item it is likewyse ordered and established that if there be any debate or discorde betwene any of ye saide company or fellowshipp of Taylors that ye p'ties so at debate shall stande to ye Awarde and ordenaunce of ye m'r. for ye tyme being and his bretheren senior masters which m'r for ye tyme beinge and bretheren shall name and chose fower indiferent men of ye saide company or felowshipp without any affection or parcialytie, which fower men so chosen shall not refuse to serue in that behalfe accordinge to their masters comaundement uppon payne of ye forfaiture of IIIs. IIIId. to be paide to ye saide m'r for ye tyme beinge to ye vse of ye poore of ye same crafte."

Debates and discordes to be endid by the company.

"Item it is further ordered and decreed that yf any of ye saide felowshipp within ye saide cittie shall despise or speake any sclaunderous or raylinge wordes against ye m'r for ye tyme beinge which may be justly approved he the same Despiser or sclaunderer shall paye to ye comon Boxe for ye poore vis. viiid. And yf any of ye saide felowshipp shall speake ye lyke wordes against the warden or wardens for ye tyme beinge he the saide despiser or sclaunderer shall paye IIIs. IIIId. to ye same comon boxe for ye poore as is aforesaide."

Evill wordes spoken against the m'r or wardens.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that if any person or persons of ye saide felowshipp slaunder or backbyte one another or Deprave one anothers workemanshipp and the same be dulye proved the offendor shall paye for eu'y his offence IIIs. IIIId. sterlinge to ye saide m'r to ye vse of ye poore of the saide crafte."

Evill wordes amonge the Companye.

"Item it is also ordeyned and decreed for the better p'seruacion and mayntenunce of ye peace of our soueraigne Lady the Quene that if any person of ye saide crafte be founde a maynteneer of quarrels or debats or a disturber of the peace or goinge abrode at unconveniente season in ye night, for to make or maynetayne any Ryote or debate or for any other evill intent or purpose (the master hauinge knowledge thereof) shall by vertue of his office comitt

Maynten'unce of the peace and preseruacon of order.

ye saide p'te so offendinge to warde and presentlye to shewe ye maior of ye saide cittie of his offence and misdemeanure that he maye haue further punisshement and be duly chastised by the good advise of ye maior and Justices of the cittie of Bristowe aforesaide."

The Maiors Sergeant only shall bringe offendors to warde.

"Item it is further ordayned and established that the m'r of the crafte aforesaide shall not take upon him to sende any person of ye saide crafte to warde by any officer or cunstable but only by one of the maiors Sergeaunts."

Tenne or twelve of ye Auncyent masters and the m'r beinge shall make orders.

"Item it is ordayned and decreed that if Tenne or Twelve of ye Auncyent masters and eldest of ye saide crafte with ye master for ye tyme beinge shall at any tyme hereafter condiscende or agree uppon any order or thinge concerninge the comon welth of ye saide crafte and good governement therof beinge not repugnant to ye orders conteyned in this decree and do make any ordenaunce as aforesaide Whosoever shall make resistaunce against any of ye same orders so to be made and ordayned shall forfaite and lose for his disobedience xiiis. iiiid. to be paide in maner and forme followinge videl't the one moytie to ye maior and his Bretheren ye Aldermen and the other moytie to ye m'r to the vse of ye poore of ye company of Taylors as is aforesaide."

A court to be kept.

"Item it is also ordered established and decreed that it shall and maye be laufull unto ye m'r and his bretheren the senior masters of ye saide mistery of Taylors within ye saide cittie of Bristowe from tyme to tyme to keepe court at their Hall within ye same cittie comonly vsed and appoynted for ye same misterie And then and there as occation shall serve with ye assent and consent of ye saide master and the most p'te of ye saide senior masters to make ordayne and decree suche laufull orders accordinge to ye lawes of this realme as shalbe by his or their discretions thought meete and convenient for ye mayntenaunce and preseruacon of their saide mistery as well for good workemanshipp to ye same mistery belonginge as also of and for ye good and laudable orderinge instructinge and keepinge ye youth of ye same mistery in dewe

obedience as well jorneymen as apprentises towards ye saide master his Bretheren ye senior masters and ye wardens of ye same mistery for ye tyme beinge so alwaies that the same orders so by them to be made as aforesaide shalbe registred by the clarke of ye same mistery into one sufficient register booke servinge for the same misterie. And the same orders so regestred shalbe by the same clarke ffower tymes in ye yeare openly redd and delibatlye pronounced in the presence of ye saide master and senior masters unto ye freemen of ye same companye which shalbe there then present to here the same wherby if any of them shall happen to offende in any of ye same orders or constitucons they shall not excuse themselves for wante of knowledge of ye same. And he or they that shall not come at a dewe hower to here the same orders redd shall paye xiid. for a fyne which shalbe putt into the comon boxe aforesaide servinge for ye same purpose to the vse of the poore of ye saide crafte as is aforesaide."

Reliefe of poore sicke p'sons by the Company.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that if any of ye saide felowshipp lye sicke by godds visitacon and bein povertie as soone as it is knowen to ye master and wardens then they the saide master and wardens in ye name of ye whole company shall visitte him and helpe and relieve him so lyinge or beinge sicke if it be neede untill he be recovered of his sicknes or that God shall call him to his mercy owte of this worlde."

Imprisonment for non payinge of any penaltie forfaited in this ordenaunce.

"And fynally it is ordered and established that if any of the saide company or felowshipp aforesaide shall not from tyme to tyme paye and yelde all suche some and somes of money fynes and all other duties and charges which he ought to paie contayned in anye of the Articles of this Ordenaunce by the comaundement of the saide master and wardens but shall refuse to doe ye same then the saide master shall comitt such person and persons so refusinge unto warde to be conveyed thether by the maior's Sergeant aforesaide where he shall abyde untill he shall haue satisfied the same duties."

"All which actes ordenaunces Constitucons and Othes in maner and forme aforesaide at the request of the saide master wardens felowshipp

and companye by the auctorytie and vertue of the saide Acte of parliament made in the saide nyneteneth yere of Kinge Henrye ye Seaventh wee the saide chauncellor high Treasauror and chief Justice haue seen p'vsed redd examyned and fully considered and for good laudable and laufull ordynaunces constitucons and othes wee doe accept alowe and admitt and by theis present as much as in vs is or resteth ratifie confirme allowe and approve."

"Provided alwaies nevertheles that if any Article or any p'te therof in there putt conteyned shalbe hereafter thought and adjudged by ye the saide chauncellor high treasorer and chief justice or to the Lorde chauncellor Lorde keeper Lorde high treasorer of Englande and the two cheefe justices for the tyme beinge or to any three of them to be contrarye to ye prerogative of the Quene our souereigne Lady her heires or successors or to the lawes or statuts of this realme or otherwyse not meete to be executed That then it shalbe laufull to ye the saide Lorde chauncellor Lorde high Treasorer and chief Justice or to the Lorde chauncellor or Lorde keper of the greate Seale of Englande Lorde Treasorer of Englande and the chief Justices of either Benche for the tyme beinge or to any three of vs or of them to alter reforme qualifie or vtterly to abolish and make voyde suche and so many of the same as bene or shalbe so as is aforesaide taught or aujudged to be contrarye to the saide prerogatiue lawes or Statuts or otherwise not meete to be executed. This confirmacon or allowaunce or any thinge therin conteyned to the contrarye notwithstanding Wherof wee haue to these present sett our handes and seales The Twentith daye of June in the one and Twentith yere of the reigne of our souereigne Lady Elizabeth by the grace of God Quene of Englande ffraunce And Irelande Defendor of the faith."

A COPY OF

THE ACTS ORDINANCES CONSTITUTIONS AND OATHES

FOR THE

BETTER GOVERNMENT MAINTENANCE REGULATION AND SUPORT

OF THE

Company of Mercht. Taylers

IN THE CITY OF BRISTOL

AS WAS RATIFIED AND CONFIRMED BY AUTHORITY

15TH MAY, 16TH CHARLES I.

ANNO DOM. 1640.

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ANNO DOM. 1640.

"To all Christian People to whome this present writeing shall come, John Lord Ffinch Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England Sr John Brampston Knight Lord Chiefe Justice of the Kings Bench and Sr Edward Littleton Knight one of his Majestys most Honourable privie Councell and Lord Cheife Justice of his Majesties Court of Common pleas send greeting in our Lord God everlasting."

"Whereas in a certaine Act of Parliament of the late most noble Prince King Henry Seventh, holden at Westminster the twenty fiveth day of January in the nineteenth yeare of his Raigne made and ordained for the Weale and profitt of his subjects it was amongst othere things ordained established and enacted that no master wardens, and ffellowships of Crafts or misteries or any of them, nor any Rulers of Guildes or ffraternities should take uppon them to make any acts or ordinances by them before that time made in disinheritance or deminution of the Prerogative of the King nor of other, nor against the common proffitt of the people, but if the same acts or ordinances were examined and approved by the Chancellor Treasurer of England or Cheife Justices of either Bench or three of them Or else before both the Judges of Assize in their Circuit or Progresse in that Shire where such act or ordinances have been made upon paine of forfeiture of 40£ for every time that they do the contrary as in the Said act of Parliament more plainly doth appear."

"Knowe Yee That Paul Williams now master of the Company and ffellowshipe of the misterie of Merchant Taylers of the City of Bristol, Tomas Phelps and William Boys wardens of the Same Company with the

whole assent and consent of the said ffellowshipp and Company willing and desireing the said act of Parliament in all and every thing to be duely observed and kept the ffifteenth day of May in the Sixteenth yeare of the Raigne of our sovereigne Lord King Charles have exhibited their bill of petition unto us Earnestly requesting that wee according to the Said act of Parliament would peruse examine approve and allow such acts and ordinances as the said master wardens and company for the better government continuance order and maintenance of theire said Company and ffellowshipp of the said mistery, upon good deliberation have made and devised as well by virtue and Letters Patents made and granted unto the Said ffellowshipp and Company by the late King Richard the Secend Confirmed and ratified by King Henry fowerth as also by other additions granted by the Mayors and Common Consell of the Said City of later times and which formerly have been ratified Confirmed and approved by our predecessors in the Raigne of the late Sovereign Lady Queene Elizabeth and with the same petition have presented unto us a Booke conteyning theire Said acts and Ordinances, the tenour whereof hereafter ensue."

"Inprimis. It is ordeyned established and decreed that all the householders of the ffellowshipp of the Merchant Taylers of the City of Bristol aforesaid Shall have convenient warning given them or left at theire severall houses by the two wardens or Beadell of the said company or by one of them by the appointment of the Said Master for the time being to come and repaire to the saide Hall of the Craft upon Monday in Whitson weeke yearly for ever at an appointed houre there to elect and chose a new Master for the yeare next ensueing and that no person or persons of the said mistery or Crafte shall absent himselfe wherehence without a cause reasonable to be allowed by the Company that shall be present or more part of them upon paine that every person offending herein shall forfeit and pay the Sume of five Shillings of lawful money of England to and for the use of the Poor of the Crafte aforesaid."

1. An act for electing a new master on munday in Whitsun week yearely.

"Item. It is ordered established and decreed that if any Brothers of the said Company or Craft shall hereafter be elected and chosen a master as is aforesaid for the year ensueing whether he be present or absent at the election and shall refuse to take the Same upon him without cause reasonable to be allowed by those that have been Masters or greatest part of them Then the Same Brother or Brothers and every of them Soe refusing Shall forfeit and pay to the Master for the time being the Sume of five pounds Sterling to the use aforesaid."

2. That none that is elected master shall refuse the office.

"Item. It is ordered established and decreed that if any brother of the Said mistery or Crafte which hereafter shall be chosen to be a Warden or Beadell of the said Company and whether absent or present at such election and shall refuse to take the same upon him or to execute the lawful commandment of the master of the said mistery for the time being without cause reasonable to be allowed by the ancient masters Then the Brother or Brethren and every of them Soe refusing shall forfeit and pay the master for the time being the Sume of twenty shillings of lawfull English money to and for the use aforesaid."

3. That none that is chosen a warden or beadell shall refuse.

"Item. It is ordained established and decreed that the Same master and Wardens for the time being shall every year upon the ffeast day of the Nativitie of St. John Baptist Ordain keep and hold a dinner of reasonable and Convenient Dyett not of exessive charge for all the Brothers of the said fellowshipp and Company that thither will repaire or come and that every Brother or craft holder there being Shall pay towards the charge thereof to the master for the time being according to the discretion of the said master and Wardens so as the charge soe Assessed doe not exceed the Summ of 2s. 6d. to any Brother for any such dinner; And if any Brother and Craft holder of the said Craft shall absent himselfe from the said dinner hee shall pay halfe Soe much as any other being pressent Shall pay and that every Brother and Craftholder shall pay his or their assessment towards the said dinner within one month next after the said ffeast upon

4. The master and wardens shall hold a dinner on Midsomer day yearly.

reasonable demand thereof upon paine that every person not doeinge the same shall forfeit three shillings and fourpence to the master for the time being to the use aforesaid."

5. An act for putting on the hood at the election of the mastr and choseing Wardens and Beadells and their oaths.

"Item. It is ordained established and decreed that the master for the time being whose yeare is to expire at the said ffeast of St. John the Baptist yearly Shall in the middle of the dinner aforesaid put on his head the Hood commonly worne by the master of the Company and forthwith shall take the same and put it upon the head of the party or man Chosen to be master for the year then following in Signe and token of his election. The which new master at the same time and place after dinner ended Shall chose by the assent of his Brothers there being of the said Company to Wardens or a Beadell and after that election the said new master and Wardens Shall in the said Hall take their Corporall Oathes well and truly according to the best of their Skill and knowledge to rule and govern the said fellowshipp and to maintaine all their lawfull Liberties and good Ordinances during their said yeare, which said master and Wardens whensoever anything of charge touching the said fellowshipp Shall be made or ordained Shall all assemble and come together and Shall not otherwise doe any matter or thing of charge without the assent of ten or twelve of the Senior masters or the most part of them. And that at the end of every yeare the ole master and the two Wardens shall yearly yield a true accompt to the new master and Wardens of the year following within one month after they shall be there unto required before foure Auditors to be appointed by the Senior master of the Said ffellowshipp whereof the master Shall Chose two and Senior Masters the other two of all receipts payments and disbursements and then and there Shall deliver and yield up all the goods and Chattells and money in their possession appertaineing to the said ffellowshipp to the Said new master and Wardens for the use and benefit of the Company upon paine that the ole master or Wardens or any of them not doing the Same shall forfeit Ten pounds to the use aforesaid. And every person Chosen to be Auditors as aforesaid refuseing or

Concerning Auditors.

neglecting to take the same accompt Shall forfeit Ten Shillings to the use aforesaid."

"Item. It is ordained Established and decreed that the Said Beadell to be chosen as aforesaid Shall gather the rents and other dutyes appertaining to the Said ffellowshipp, and warne all and every Such person and persons Journeymen and apprentices of the Company according to the masters and Wardens appointment or com'and and the Senior masters as hath been anciently used; And if the Beadell or Warden so elected shall neglect or refuse his office hee Shall forfeit and pay twenty shillings to the use aforesaid for every time."

6. That the Beadell shall gather the rents and warn the Journeyman.

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that if any masters shall choose any Warden or Beadell that shall not at the time of the election be A ffreeman of the Said Company and ffellowshipp of Taylers he Shall forfeit and pay for every such offence the Summe of Five pounds to the use aforesaid."

7. None to be Warden or Beadell but a freeman.

"Item. It is ordered and decreed That no master for the time being Shall Sell to any of the Said ffellowshipp both his Wardenshipp but that every Brother of the Company Shall Serve both or one of them at the Least as it hath been accustomed in former time and to be dispensed with for the Second Wardenshipp only or none at all, upon paine that if any Shall offend in doeing the contrary, he shall forfeit and pay ffive pounds to the use aforesaid."

8. No master shall sell his wardenshipp.

"Item. It is ordained and decreed that every Brother of the Said ffellowshipp of the Said mistery of Taylers which hereafter Shall be warned either in person or at his dwelling house to come to the Said Hall or any other place certaine at A day and hour to him assined by the Wardens or Beadell Shall repaire or come to the Said Hall or place at the houre that shall be to him appointed except he have A reasonable or just cause to be absent, and not depart therehence before the Said company without Lycence of the said master upon paine of forfeiture for the first default 6d. for the Second 1s. and

9. Every brother of the company shall come to the hall on notice and not depart.

for the third default 2s. of lawful money of England to be paid to the master for the time being to the use aforesaid."

10. The master wardens and officers shall take their oaths to the king.

"Item. It is ordained and decreed that all and Singuler of the masters with their Wardens and all other officers and ministers of the Said Societie or ffelloushipp whatsoever which are or shall be hereafter Chosen and Elected into any office or ministry of the Said ffellowshipp or shall be received into the Said Company Shall take his and their Corporall Oathes upon the holy Evangelist, touching their obedience towards the King's Majestie in the open Hall before the Senior master of the Said Company."

11. All that be admitted shall take an oathe for good government.

"Item. It is also ordered and decreed that all person or persons that Shall be received and admitted into the Said ffellowshipp or Composition redemption Service or by any others ways or means Shall take a Corporall oath upon the holy Evangelists of God before the master and Company as it hath beene in former time used for the better Government of the Said Company well and truly to observe maintaine fulfill and duly keep to his power all the good and lawfull ordinances decrees and statutes made or Established or to be made and Established for the good Government of the Said ffellowshipp and if soe bee any refuse to take his oathe then he shall not be admitted into the Said ffellowshipp."

12. Every freeman shall present his Journeyman to the Mayor.

"Item. It is also ordered and decreed that all person or persons that Shall repaire as Strangers to work as journeymen with any ffreeman or a Widdow which hath beene a ffreeman wife of the Said Company or ffellowshipp before he be admitted to work with the Same ffreeman or ffreewoman, the Said ffreeman or ffreewoman Shall present the same Journeyman to the mayor or the Alderman of the Same ward and also to the master of the Said Company or ffellowshipp of Taylers, the Same Journeyman bringing with him a Lawfull testimony that he hath Served an apprenticeshipp according to the Statute and free from his last master, and if any ffreeman or ffreewoman Shall offend contrary to this article the partie offending

Shall forfeit and pay Six Shillings and eightpence to the use aforesaid for every time offending."

"Item. It is also ordered and decreed that it Shall be Lawfull for the master or his Wardens to minister an oath unto the Said Journeyman or Journeymen Strangers which Shall be received and admitted to work with any of the Said Company for the true observeing and keeping of all the Lawfull ordinances, decrees and Statutes made or Established or to be made or Established for the good Government of the Said ffellowshipp or Company. And if any Journeyman refuse to take his oath or if any of the Said Company Shall receive any Such Journeyman or Journeymen or Set him to worke before Such oath be taken the master Soe employing or receiveing him Shall pay to the master of the Company for the time being the Sume of 40s to the use aforesaid."

13. The master or Wardens to give an oath to the Journeyman stranger.

"Item. It is further established and ordained That it Shall be lawfull for every one that hath beene master of the Company and ffellowshipp of the Taylers within the Said city of Bristol to keep 3 apprentices and not above at one time and to every one that hath beene twice Warden of the Said Company and ffellowshipp two keepe two apprentices and not above. And every Craftholder else of the Said Company to keepe one apprentice only and not above upon paine that every one that doth contrary to the true meaning of this article Shall forfeit and pay for every Such default the Summe of three pounds six shillings and eight pence to the use of the Poor of the Crafte as aforesaid."

14. A master three apprentices and no more at one time.

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that no Covenant Servant, Journeyman or apprentice Shall keep any servant or apprentice under him Openly or privily untill he be enfranchised and made free of the Said Company and if any doo the contrary he Shall forfeit and Loose the Summe of fforty shillings to the use aforesaid."

15. No Journeyman or se'vt shall keep apprentice.

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that if any person or persons useing

16. None that are not free of the Company shall make garments.

or exerciseing the Said Craft within the Said City not being free of the said Company or ffellowshipp shall privily receive any worke to the intent to make the Same in Secrett wheresoever and cutt or make any manner of Garment within the said City or take money or any other reward therefore to his Owne use that then every such person or persons Soe doing Shall forfeit the Summ of ten Shillings for every garment to the use of the poor of the Company aforesaid."

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that if any person or persons whatsoever of the Said craft or mistery doe or Shall at any time or times from henceforth Slock procure or alure by any way or manner of means whatsoever any Servant or Servants from his master with whom Such Servant is in working within the Said City; or cause him to depart or absent him, or themselves from their Said masters Service every Such person or persons soe offending Shall forfeit and pay for every Such offence Six Shillings and eightpence to the master of the Company for the time being to the use aforesaid."

17. None to allure a Servant from his master.

"Item it is ordered and decreed that noe Journeyman being in Service or working with any of the Craft or Company Shall depart from the Service of his master without reasonable and lawfull Cause upon paine to forfeit the Summe of ten Shillings to the master of the Craft for the time being to the use of the poor of the Craft aforesaid."

18. No journeyman to leave his master without a cause.

"And that no man of the Said Society or Company within the Said City Shall take any Servant or Journeyman soe departing without Lawfull cause or Lycence of his last master with whom he wrought upon paine of forfeiture of Tenn shillings to the master for the time being to the use aforesaid."

"Item. It is Likewise ordered and decreed that no Burgesse of, or other person inhabiteing within the Said City not being free of the Said Company of Merchant Taylers shall from henceforth use, make or cutt to be made any manner of

19. None to make Garments unless he be free of the Company except for his wife, &c.

Garment except it Shall be for his owne body or for his wife or Childe upon paine to forfeite for every Such Garment soe cutt or made to the master of the Company for the time being the Summe of twenty shillings to the use aforesaid."

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that from henceforth it Shall not be Lawfull for any person or persons within the Said City to cutt make or Sell any Stockings made of Lynnen or woollen which usually have beene made by the Said Company of Taylers except he be first admitted into the Said ffellowshipp or Crafte of Taylers upon paine that every Such persons or person offending in this article Shall forfeit and pay to the master for the time being for every pair of Stockinge Soe to be cutt or made or sold the Summe of three Shillings and fourpence to the use aforesaid."

20. None to sell or make stockings but freemen.

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that no person or persons Shall cutt make or Sell any kind of Garment or Garments hose or Breeches within the Said City and Liberties thereof unless he be ffranchised and made free of the Said Craft, Widdows whose husbands were free of the Said Craft dureing the time of their Widdowhood useing the Same with one Journeyman and one apprentice only excepted upon paine to forfeit and loose twenty shillings for every defaut to be devided in two parts. Videl't. the one halfe to be paid to the Mayor and Aldermen of the Said City, and the other halfe to the Said master for the time being to the use of the poor of the Said Craft."

21. None but the men of the Company shall make or sell garments except widdows.

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that noe person or persons within the Said City Shall be received to use the Said arte or Crafte or mistere of Taylers Craft unless he hath been an apprentice within the Said City to the Said Crafte, and that his master with whom hee hath been an apprentice Shall come to the master or Wardens for the time being and to the Senior masters and give testimony of his apprentice that he hath beene a true and Just Servant and that he hath Served his master truely and Justly all the time of his apprenticeshipp

22. None to be admitted into the Society but such as have been 7 years apprentice and bring a testimoniall thereof. To admitt otherwise the master is fined ten pounds.

according to the good and wholesome lawes of this realme upon the which testemony the master and the senior masters shall receive the said apprentice according to the good and wholesome orders of the Said Craft. Provided always that it shall be lawfull for the said master and Wardens for the time being with the assent and agreement of ten or twelve of the senior masters by way of redemption and composition to receive and admit into the said craft any honest person or persons that hath beene an apprentice in the said craft and served the Term of Seven years, bringing Testimoniall with him and them of the full serving of the same Terme of his apprenticeshipp. So that also such person and persons shall be found expert and perfect in the same science and agreeable to all good Orders in this Ordinary Expressed. And if the master for the time being shall make any man free contrary to the true meaneing of this article hee shall forfeit and pay the Summe of Tenn pounds of lawfull money of England to the poor of the Company aforesaid and yet the party soe by him made free shall stand as a fforraigner againe anything in this ordinance to the contrary in anywise notwithstanding.

23. No Strang Sower or Journeyman shall be employed above 15 days.

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that if any Strange Sower or Journeyman come to the said City of Bristol to dwell there and shall be there Imployed in the said Craft of Taylers over and above the space of 15 days he shall pay to the master of the Craft for the maintenance of the Poor eight pence, and to the Warden or Beadell for the time being sixpence and to the Journeymens box sixpence and that the master mistris with whome any such Sower shall worke shall answer the summe above said the next quarter day after to the Master or Wardens for the time being without any delay upon paine of forfeiture of six shillings and eight pence to the said master to the use of the poor of the Craft or mistery aforesaid for not paying or doing the same."

24. None to keep standings in High Street to sell Stockings except the faire time.

"Item. It is likewise ordered Established and Decreed that no person or persons of the said Craft or mistery of Taylers nor any other shall keep or hold any Standing or

boord in High Street or in any other Street within the said City or Suburbs thereof to sell hose or Stockings or Bodices or any other Sale work upon paine to loose to the master for every default twenty shillings to the use aforesaid. The faire times within the said City only excepted."

"Item. It is further ordered and decreed that the Company of Taylers aforesaid every man according to his abilitie and at his and their will and pleasure shall and may buy as hath beene anciently used and accustomed all kinds of Cloaths and Kersies and all manner of Cloth Lynnen and woollen and freely Sell the same againe according to their Ancient Grants and usages or make the same in Garments to his or their most proffitt and Comoditie without any trouble or molestation of any person or persons whatsoever."

25. Any of the Company may buy and sell clothes and Kersies, &c.

"Item. It is also ordered established and decreed that every master and householder of the said Craft and ffellowshipp of Taylers within the said City shall pay to the master of the said Craft for the time being yearly Twelve pence of lawfull English money that is to say at every quarter three pence to be imployed in such laudable use and uses as have beene here to fore accustomed upon paine to forfeite for every time soe not paying the said quarteradge the summe of six shillings and eight pence to the use aforesaid and every Journeyman shall pay yearly eight pence Videlic't. twopence every quarter to the use aforesaid upon the like paine."

26. Every master and householder to pay threepence a quarter to good use.

"Item. It is Likewise ordered and Established that if there be any Debate or discord between any of the said Company or ffellowshipp of Taylers, the parties soe at debate shall stand to the award and ordinance of the master for the time being and his Brethren the Senior Masters, which master for the time being and Brethren shall name and chose foure indifferent men of the said Company or ffellowshipp without any affectation or partiallity which foure men soe chosen shall not refuse to serve in that behalfe according to their Masters' Commandm't. upon paine of the forfeiture of three

27. Difference amongst any to be referred to the master.

shillings and fourpence to be paid to the said master for the time being to the use of the Poor of the said Craft."

28. None to Scandall the master or wardens.

"Item. It is further ordered and decreed that if any of the said ffellowshipp within the said City shall Dispise and speak any Slanderous or rayling words against the master for the time being which may be justly proved hee the same dispiser or Slanderer shall pay to the master for the time being six shillings and eight pence; and if any of the said fellowshipp shall speak the Like words against the Warden or Beadell for the time being; hee the said dispiser or Slanderer shall pay three shillings and four pence for his offence to the said Master for the Poore as aforesaid."

29. None to backbite or under value anothers workmanshipp.

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that if any person or persons of the said ffellowship Slander or backbite on another or deprave one anothers workmanshipp and the same being duly proved, the offendor shall pay for every his offence three shillings and fourpence sterling to the same master for the time being to the use aforesaid."

30. None to resist bye-laws.

"Item. It is ordained and decreed that if Ten or Twelve of the ancient Masters and eldest of the said Craft with the master for the time being shall at any time hereafter condisend or agree upon any order or thing concerning the common good or weale of the said Craft and Good Government thereof, being not repugnant to the orders ordained in this decree, and doe make any ordinance or Article to that effect, whosoever of the said Company shall make resistance against any such article or orders soe to be made and ordained shall forfeit and loose for his disobedience thirteen shillings and fourpence to the use aforesaid."

31. The Master and Bretheren to hold court in the Hall to make any by-Laws, &c.

"Item. It is also ordered Established and decreed that it shall and may be lawfull unto the master and his Brethren the Senior masters of the said mistery of Taylers within the said City of Bristol for the time to come to keep Court at their Hall within the said City commonly used and

appointed for the same mistery and then and there as occasion shall serve with the assent and consent of the said master and the most part of the senior masters to make ordaine and decree such Lawfull ordered according to the Laws of the Realme as bee by his and their discretions thought meete and convenient for the maintenance and preservation of their said misterie as well for good workmanshipp and mistery as also of and for the good belonging laudable ordering instructing and keeping of the youth of the same mistery in due obedience as well journeymen as apprentices towards the said master and his Brethren the Senior Masters and the Wardens of the said mistery for the time being soe always that the same orders soe by them to be made as aforesaid shall be registred by the Clarke of the said Mistery into one sufficient Register booke serving for the same Mistery. And the same Orders soe Registered shall be by the same Clarke foure times in the yeare openly read and Deliberately pronounced in the presents of the said Master and Senior Masters and to the freemen of the same Company which shall be then present to hear the same whereby if any of them shall happen to offend in any of the same orders or constitutions they shall not excuse themselves for want of knowledge of the same. And hee or they that shall not come at a due houre to heare the same orders read shall pay twelve pence to the master for the time being to the use of the poore of the said Craft as is aforesaid."

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that if any Brother or Sister being ffree of the said Craft and ffellowshipp of Taylers lye Sick by God's Visitation and be in povertie, that in such case as soone as it shall be knowne to the Master and Wardens of the said Company They the said Master and Wardens in the name of the whole Company shall go visit him her or them and helpe and relieve him or her soe lying or being sick if it be need untill he be recovered of his Sickness or that God call him to his mercy out of this world."

32. The Sick to be visited and relieved, &c.

"Item. It is ordered and decreed that noe person or persons inhabiting

33. None to make whale bone boddice but freemen.

within the city of Bristol or Liberties thereof shall make or sell any Whale bone Boddice for Women or Children but only those who have served an apprenticeshipp by the space of Seaven years unto the same Craft or Misterie of Boddice makeing and are free of the said Company and Craft of Taylers within the City of Bristol upon paine to forfeit and pay for every paire of Boddice soe made or Sold by any person or persons contrary to this article the Summe of Six shillings and eight pence of good and lawfull English money (The faire times being Excepted) to the use aforesaid."

34. The masters may bring actions for the ffines.

"Item. It is ordered Established and Decreed that all and every the ffines Penalties and forfeitures which from henceforth shall be forfeited by any person or persons upon all and every or any the Articles, Orders or Constitutions before mentioned and expressed, That for the Recoverie off them or any may be lawfull to and for the master of the said Company for the time being to commence and bring any action or actions for recoverie thereof in any of his majesties Courts of Record at Westminster against any person offending as is aforesaid or otherwise in his majesties Court of Record holden within the said City of Bristoll before the Mayor and Aldermen of the said City for the time being, and the same action or actions to prosecute to Judgement and Execution with effect and therein be allowed ordinary costs and damages as in all actions and suites is commonly used, and that noe Essorne or protection shall be therein allowed. And that all and every the paines penalties and forfeitures which shall be recovered in any such action or actions the ordinarie cost of prosecution being Deducted and allowed shall be to the use of the poore of the said ffellowshipp or Company and to none other use or purpose whatsoever Provided that before any such action broght the master for the time being shall have the consent of the most part of the Senior masters of the said Company for bringing the same action or otherwise shall prosecute the same action or otherwise at his own costs and charges and have noe allowance thereof from the said Company."

"And Lastly that the said Master and Wardens shall yearly within ten days after they shall be Sworne as aforesaid present themselves to the Mayor of the City for the time being at the common place of Audience called the Tolkey in Bristol and there Register their names as other Companyes doe and pray assistance for the due Execution off these Constitutions as antiently hath been accustomed on paine of twenty shillings to the use aforesaid."

35. The Master and Wardens to be presented to the Mayor within two days after they are sworne and there to be registered.

THE RATIFICATION.

All which Acts Ordinances Constitutions and Oathes in manner and forme aforesaid at the request of the said Master Wardens ffellowshipp and Company by Authoritie and Vertue of the said acte of Parliament made in the said nineteenth yeare of King Henry the Seaventh. Wee the said Lord Keeper of the Great Seale of England and Lord Cheife Justices have seen perused read examined and fully considered and for good Laudible and Lawfull Ordinances Constitutions and oathes we doe accept allow and Admitt and by these presents as much as in us is or resteth Ratifie confirme allow and approve.

Provided allways nevertheless that if any Article or any part thereof in these presents contained shall be hereafter thought and adjudged by us the said Lord Keeper and Chief Justices or to the Lord Chancelor Lord Keeper Lord High Treasurer and the two Cheife Justices for the time being or to any three of them to be contrary to the Prerogative of the King our Soveraigne Lord his heirs or Successors or to the Lawes or Statutes of this Realme or otherwys not meet to be executed that then it shall be Lawfull to us the said Lord Keeper of the Great Seale of England and Cheife Justices or to the Lord Chancellor, Lord Keeper, Lord High Treasurer and Cheife Justices of either Bench for the time being or to any three of us or them to alter, reforme, quallifie, or utterly to abolish, and make voide such and soe many of the same as bene or shalbe soe as is aforesaid thought or adjudged to be contrary to the said

Prerogative Laws or Statutes or otherwise not meete to be executed. This Confirmation or allowance or anything therein contained to the Contrary nothwithstanding.

In Witness whereof wee have to these presents sett our hands and Seals the day and yeare aforesaid.

JOHN FINCH. JOHN BRAMSTON.
EDWARD LITTLETON.

ORDINAUNCES AND DECREES MADE and agreed uppon the IXth day of June Anno domi' 1640 by Paull Williams Master off the Scotiety and Company of Merchant Taylers within the Cytty of Bristole and senior Masters of the saide company and ffellowshipp, in theire common Hawll within the saide Cytty, for the better government of the Jornimen, and sowers of the said Mistery as ffolloweth.

"**Inprimis** that the wardin or Beadle that shalbe chosen and appointed by the Master for the time beinge, shall warne all the Jornimen and Couenaunt seruants, of euery of the s'd craft within the saide Cytty, to come vnto the Hawll, there to pay their Quartriges, euery quarter day, at the Masters appointment."

"Item there shalbe a chest with three Lockes and three keyes to it in the Hawll, whereoff the Master for the time beinge to keepe one key, and the other two to be kept by the two auncients jornimen at the appointment of the saide master."

"Item that the Mony which shall be gathered euery Quarter day, by the Master, Wardin, or Beadle, it shalbe kept in the saide Chest, for the use of the poore, sicke, or aged Jornimen."

"Item if any Jorniman, or Coue'nt seruant to any of the said Craft shall slaunder, or use any reprochfull or Disdainfull wordes, against the Wardin, or Bedle for the time beinge he that shall so offend, shall pay for euery such offence xiid w'thout any forgivenes."

"Item if any Jorniman or seruant be warned by the Wardin or Bedle for the time beinge, to come unto the Haull and doth absent himselfe without iust cause to be approued and allowed off by the Master for the time beinge he so absentinge himselfe, shall pay for the first default iiiid. for the second viiid. and for the third xiid."

"Item if any seruant or Jorniman shall refuse to pay any fine or finesdon, or comited by him expressed in any Article, or Decree, concerninge the good rule, and gourment off them, the saide Jornimen or seruants, he shalbe expelled, and dismissed from worke by the Masters appointment for the time beinge, and iff any freeman or widdow off the saide fellowshipp shall after set him to worke without licence of the saide Master, he or she, that shall soe presume to imploy into work any such seruant so dismissed shall pay a fine of VIS. VIIId. for euery offence to the use of the poore of ye fellowship of Tailers within the saide Cytty."

"Item that the Wardin or Beadle shall geue and yeald up a trew and iust accompt Unto the Master of the saide ffellowshipp the next day after St. John Baptists day or els to forfeite xs. and all those monyes remayninge shalbe kept into the Chest aforesaide for those good uses before expressedd."

"Item the Master of the saide Company shall se all these Orders to his power kept, and observed, or for his default hearein to forfeite and pay tenn shillings to the use of the poore of the saide scotiety."

"Item that the next day after St John Baptists day, when the new Master shall take his Oath, the ould Master shall cause the Orders to be openly read, as beinge part of his saide oath, which iff he the saide ould Master shall omitt, or neglect he shall forfeite forty shillinges; and iff the new master shall refuse to sweare to se these Orders and Decrees observed, fulfilled, and kept to the uttermost off his power he shall forfeit and pay ffive pounds, these two last fines, to be for the use of the poore off the said Mistery and Company.

BETWEEN THE SOCIETY OF MERCHANT TAYLORS WITHIN THE CITY OF BRISTOL AND DIVERS PERSONS DEBTORS TO THE SAID COMPANY BY BOND.

CASE.—The 15th of May the 16 Charles Ist ano 1640 for the better Government, maintenance, regulation and support of the said Society an Act or Ordinance at the request of the said Society was in due form of Law granted, ratified and confirmed to the said Society by the then Lord Chancellor and Chief Justices of the King's Bench and Common Bench; the Tenour of one of the Clauses in the said Act or Ordinance is in the words following vizt.

(22.) "Item. It is ordered and Decreed that no person or persons within the said City shall be received to use the said Art or Craft or Mistery of Taylors Craft *Unless he hath been an Apprentice within the said City to the said Crafte,* And that his master with whom he hath been an apprentice shall come to the master or wardens for the time being and to the senior masters and give testimony of his apprentice that he hath been a true and just servant. And that he hath served his master truely and justly all the time of his Apprenticeship according to the good and wholesome orders of the said craft. Provided always that it shall be Lawful for the said master and wardens for the time being with the assent and agreement of Ten or Twelve of the senior masters, *By way of redempcion and Composicion to receive and Admit into the said Craft any Honest person or persons that hath been an Apprentice in the said Craft, and served the Term of seven years* bringing Testimonial with him and them of the full serving of the same Term of his Apprenticeship so that also such person and persons shall be found expert and perfect in the same science, and agreeable to all good Orders in this Ordinary expressed. And if the master for the time being shall make any man Free contrary to the true meaning of this Article he shall forfeit and

pay the sum of Ten pounds of Lawful money of England and to the poor of the Company aforesaid and yet the party so by him made free shall stand as a Forraigner again. Anything in this Ordinance to the contrary in any wise notwithstanding."

"That the master and wardens of the said society for the time being pursuant to the direcion and power to them given by the above Clause have at all times when a Forreigner (*i.e. a person who hath not served a Legal Apprenticeship to a member of the said Society*) hath applied to be made Free of the said Company assembled all the masters of the said Society and by the Assent and Agreement of the masters so assembled or the major part of them have *by way of Redempcion or Composicion always contracted* with such Forraigner to receive and admit him a member of the said society for *Thirty pounds.*"

"That the said Society hath always taken of every Forraigner a Bond with security of the Penalty of sixty pounds condicioned for the payment of the said Thirty pounds in manner following vizt. Five pounds thereof in hand, Five pounds more thereof in a year, and afterward Forty shillings yearly till the whole sum of Thirty pounds is paid."

"That many *Forreigners* have been admitted on these Termes and many of these Bonds are now Outstanding and due to the said Society and the Obligors refuse to pay the same Alledging they are illegal and taken in direct opposition to Law And in Truth the Company regarding the Acts of the 19th of H. 7. C. 7 and 28. H. 8. c. 5 are timerous to put these Bonds in force."

(27.) "If this fine be not inconsistent with the intent and meaning of the said Acts or either of them and repugnant to the Comon Law of the kingdom touching monopolies and should the Company put these Bonds in force can they recover thereon. And will not such recovery subject them to the penalties by the said Acts or either of them inflicted."

"Councellor Vernon's Opinion.

"I conceive the Stat. 28 H. 7, cap. 5, and 22 H. 8, cap. 4 (therein recited) only regulate the fees for admission of such persons unto the Freedom of a Company as att the time of such their admission had by serving an apprenticeship with a member of the Company required an antecedent right to the Freedom thereof, and that neither of those Laws nor any other Statute entered to the case of Fines paid to the Company by Foreigners for purchase of their Freedom therein whereunto they had no previous right, and I apprehend that the Contracting for £30 as above with one who hath not served an apprenticeship with a member of the Company of Taylors to receive and admit him into the Company by way of redemption or Composition, and taking the above bond for payment of such money are not inconsistent with the meaning of either of those Statutes or of the Stat. 19 H. 7, cap. 7 or Repugnant to any of the Common Laws of the Realm; and I am of opinion that the Obligers named in such Bonds may upon putting the same in Suit recover judgment thereon against the respective Obligers, and that the Company will not by such Recovery be subject to any Penalties inflicted by either of such Statutes.

"Tho. Vernon."

Feb. 1784.

"Sir William Cann's Opinion.

"I have looked into the Ordinances of the Company of Merchant Taylors of the City of Bristol and particularly that now in question. I have also perused the Statutes 19 H. 7, C. 7, 22 H. 8, C. 4, C. 28, H. 8, C. 5, and I have considered the whole according to the best of my capacity, and am of opinion that altho these Ordinances were duly ratifyed and

confirmed according to the direction of the said act of 19 H. 7, C. 7, and I have heard a very learn'd judge openly declare on the Bench that they were good ordinances and fitt to be supported, yet I apprehend they are Not of sufficient Validity to justifie the Company's taking by way of redemption and compotition so large a Fine as £30 upon the admission of any Person (so qualified and therefore is provided) into their Body, First because said ordinances is (sic) perfectly silent with respect to the Pecuniary Termes of such redemption and Compotition, and consequently said Fines is meerly arbitary and of their own fixing; Secondly because the Person to be admitted must be honest and have served full seven years to the Crafts and must be expert and perfect therein and agreeable to all good order, &c., all which ingredients concurring in the Person admitted must render him an usefull member of the Company and add a reputation to it, and ought therefore to be admitted upon the easiest conditions. And upon the whole I am of opinion that though the taking these Fines may not (strictly speaking) be construed ag't the common Law, yet it seems to be contrary to the Two last above mentioned Statutes, and although the Company might recover on these bonds if they were put in suite, yet I would advise them to be very cautious in it (especially ag't such a Litigious Fellow as H——s) because I conceive they may thereby subject ymselves to the Penaltys of the said Statutes.

Wm Cann."

14*th March*, 1734.

"N.B.—This being a concern of great consequence to the Company I would recommend their taking further advice in the matter.

W. C."

EXTRACTS FROM MINUTE BOOK.

Whereas itt hath for some yeares past been accustomed for the Wives of ye masters and Wardens of this Society the next day after the Midsomer Dinner to take a Walk into ye Country and to be entertained

att ye Companys expense. And whereas by the great increase of the members of ye said Society the same is become too troublesome and expensive. Itt is this day ordered by us now present being the major p'te of the masters of this Company that the Custome of such an entertainment for the future cease and be from henceforwards wholly discontinued.

Dated the 4th day of July 1721 being the Journeymen's Customary Quarter day.

Wm. Davis.	Caleb Parsons.
Jos. King.	Cha. Bosher.
Mar. Williams.	Nicho. Hieron.

Peter Skinner was admitted a member of the fellowship and Company of Merchant Taylors in the City of Bristol this thirty first day of December 1725 for that he served seven years an apprenticeship to Tymothy Sandy Bodice Maker, a member of this Society and was tryed by Mr. Nicholas Hieron Mr David Jones William Andrews and Joseph Clarke and was found an expert workman in the said art of Bodice makeing.

Nicho. Hieron.
ye mark of
David X Jones.

Howell Thomas was admitted a member of the fellowship and Company of Merchant Taylors in the City of Bristol this first day of April 1726 on the Consideration of the payment of the summ of thirty pounds and was tryed by Mr. Nicholas Hieron, Mr. Richd. Clement, William Andrews and Marmaduke Williams Junr. and was found an expert workman for men.

Nicho. Hieron.

July 1*st*, 1726. The weekly payment of 2s. 6d. a week to each person in the Hospital was raised to three sh. a week.

May 20, 1734. It is this day ordered that Wheras Joseph Clarke a member of the Company of Mercht. Taylors being reduced to Poverty was sometime past admitted into the Hospitall belonging to the Company, And upon his misbehavior and false Conduct to the said Company in Clandestinely takeing a prentice and not keeping him in his house to bed and board according to Law, Complaint being made thereof to the magistrats the (sic) ordered that the said aprentice should be struck off the Tolzy book and not be admitted a Burgiss of the said City, but notwithstanding the said Order when the term of years was expired that the said aprentice was bound for, the said Joseph Clarke took an advantage (at a time of an Election for Parliament men) to present the said apprentice and demanded his freedome of the City notwithstanding the Order to the contrary, and it not being lookt after nor the Masters of the Company acquainted with it was admitted into the Liberty of the City, for which reason it is hereby ordered that the said Joseph Clarke shall be expelled the said Hospitall and That the Treasurer do pay him no more pay and that the said Clarke do clear the roome within one month after the date hereof, Witness our hands

HUGH GEORGE, Master.
MARMADUKE WILLIAMS. CHA. BOSHER.
CALEB PARSONS. NICHO. HIERON, &c.

Bristol, Dec. 31*st*, 1745.

Ordered and agreed this day by John Culliford present master of the Company of Merchant Taylors in the City of Bristol, William Stidstone

Treasurer of the said Company with the remainder part of the masters whose names are hereunto subscribed that Prayers shall be read in the Hospital belonging to the said Company in Merchant Street every Wednesday and Fryday and all Saints' Days throughout the year the same as in the Church of England by any person the present master and his committee shall appoint for the said purpose, and the person so reading shall be paid the sum of (unstated) by the Treasurer of the said Hospitall for the time being, and Mr. William Stidstone the present Treasurer is desir'd to buy a Handsome Bible and Common Prayer Book for the use aforesaid. The Hospital Bell shall Toll every prayer day at Eleven O'clock in the morning and if any person living in the said House omitt comeing to Prayers at the time appointed, unless sickness or lameness prevents, shall for his or her Omittion forfeitt six pence to the Treasurer of the Hospitall for the use of the poor of the same and Whereas wee are not willing to encrease the expenses of the said Company as it have been a custom for the said Company the last Day of each Fair call'd the Packing Day to shutt up the shops and there to have a Dinner but it is now agreed to go into the Fairs as usuall but to omitt the Dinners having a much greater regard for the poor than for it, and as it have been a custom for many years for the masters and wardens with their wives and children to walke out in the Country the day after Midsummer and to putt the Company to a large expence, it is now agreed for the Future to have that Walk, entirely cut of, so that no expence shall be defrayed, that day, by the said Company after they have departed the Hall.

JNO. CULLIFORD, Master.
CALEB PARSONS. CHAS BOSHER.
NICHO. HIERON, and 12 others.

Bristol, 24th, June, 1754.

William Beckford Esq. representative in Parliament and Alderman of the City of London was this day admitted an Honorary ffreeman of the

Company of Merchant Taylers in the City of Bristol in the manner which the ffreedom of the said Company hath been usually presented to gentlemen of sense and eminence.

JESSE ANDREWES, Master.

Bristol, 24th June, 1754.

Richard Bedeford Esq. one of the representatives in Parliament for the City of Bristol was this day admitted an honorary ffreeman of the Company of Merchant Taylors in the said City, in the manner which the ffreedom of the said Company hath been usually presented to Gentlemen of rank and eminence.

JESSE ANDREWES, Master.

1737, May 29th. Allowed for Mr. John Wesley's Room, 1s.

1740, Sept. 14th. Paid at laying the first stone of the Hall, 2s.

June 24th. Spent at the Nagg's Head, 5s. 6d

July 10th. Spent with the Vestry of St. John's, 7s. 6d.

Aug. 12th. Paid for Wine at the Funeral of Mr. Cox, 7s. 1d.

Sept. 15th. Spent at the Fountain, 2s.

Oct. 13th. Spent at the Bell with Workmen and treats with Mr. Cambourne, 2s. 9d

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June ye 24th, 1688.

John Fry first time master of the Society and fellowship of Merchant Taylors, Ambrose West and John Parsons Wardens of the same Society and fellowship and have received these goods as followeth Inprimis 2 hoods 1 bibell 2 ordinancis a copy of the ordinance a litell boock, the seele of the hall in a bagg, an order by the quene's ma'isty the king's picture the

king's arms, the pattern of the land, a tabell of the bennefactors 5 other pictures 13 bucketts, hand and sheeres, 2 warns (warden's) staves hanging in the hall, seven boards and tressells, ten forms, two new staves and cullers.

3 pecis of plate dubbel gilt 29 ounce ½ gift of the lotterey
1 gilt sack bowle 6 ounc ½ noe mark
1 pece of plate 10 ounc ¾ (*sic.* i.e. ¾) gift of Paull Williams
1 pece of plate 6 ounc ½ gift of Rob. Flower marked with a flower
1 pece of plate 11 ounc gift of the lotterey
1 solt (salt) 11 ounc gift of Rob. Fry mark'd R F.
1 bowle 10 ounc gift of Thomas Edwards mark'd T. E.
1 pece of plate gift of James Rowbotham mark'd J. R.
1 bowle 11 ounc gift of Willi Alderson name at length
1 bowle 10 ounc ½ gift of Sam. Weare name at length
1 bowle 10 ounc ½ gift of Rich. Hayward name at length
1 bowle 8 ounc ½ gift of Thos. Harper mark'd T. H.
1 salt 10 ounc gift of Geo. Ford mark'd G. F.
1 bowle 10 ounc gift of Ralph Heale name at length
1 bowle 9 ounc ¾ (¾) gift of Willi. Spencer name at length
1 salt 15 ounc ½ gift of Rob. Legg name at length
1 bowle 9 ounc ¾ (¾) gift of John Dagg mark'd E. D.
1 bowle 9 ounc ¾ (¾) gift of Therstone Whitthood name at length
1 bowle 9 ounc ¾ (¾) gift of Rog. Froggett name at length
1 bowle 13 ounc ¾ (¾) gift of Rich. Benson name at length
1 colledg. cup 10 ounc ⅞ gift of Willia. Holmes name at length
1 solt 13 ounc ¾ (¾) gift of Ed. Strood mark'd
1 solt 10 ounc ¾ (¾) gift of Marine. Williams mark'd
1 solt 12 ounc ¾ (¾) gift of Ed. Steevens name at length
1 plate 10 ounc ½ gift of Ed. Hazard
1 Colledg cup 8 ounc ¾ ½ (*sic*) gift of John Richardson
1 cup 3 ounc ½ gift of Geo. bryant
1 cup 9 ounc ¾ gift of James Morgan

1 cup 9 ounc ⅓ gift of Gabrile Lewis
1 cup 9 ounce ⅓ gift of James Morgan
1 cup 10 ounc ⅓ gift of Rich. Jones
1 cup 9 ounc ⅓ gift of Rich. Sanford marked
1 cup 9 ounc ⅓ ½ (*sic*) gift of Tno. Prewettt name at length
1 plate 17 ounc ⅓ gift of Nathan Addison
1 cup 9 ounc ⅓ ½ gift of Willi'. Lewis name at length
1 cup 9 ounc ⅓ gift of Willi Woodward
7 spoons gift of Abra Weare
1 silver dish 9 ounc ⅓ gift of Rd. Jencks
6 spoones gift of Dan. Sam
7 spoones gift of John Nicholas
1 spoone gift of the Company
1 bason 59 ounc ½ the name of the doner's uppon him
7 spoones gift of Tho. Cadell
1 sugar dish 10 ounc ½ gift of Sam. Jocham
6 spoones gift of John fry
2 Large flaggons A
2 chargers B
6 chargers C
10 dishes D
3 dishes E
6 dishes F
6 dishes G
2 fry plates
2 pastry plates
5 doz 11 plates
15 saucers
1 Leger Boock
4 other Boocks
1 w't (white) Boock in the Trunck
1 Littell Boock chiefe of all

2 dieper table clothes
2 new table cloths
A square diaper cloth
13 doz 7 napkins
1 stript Carpitt
4 greene carpitts
2 crablocks (padlocks)
1 furness
1 p'r of racks
4 spitts
1 fire forcke
1 pike two swords and belts
1 coller (colour) of bandileers
2 Backs and brests 2 copletts, a hed pece
Letter cases for the cullers
a case for the healft of a sword

ABSTRACT OF GRANTS, LETTERS PATENT, ORDINANCES FEOFFMENTS, &c., BELONGING TO THE LATE COMPANY OF MERCHANT TAYLORS IN BRISTOL.

The King Reciting that John Thorpe and John Shirp Burgesses of the Town of Bristol had founded a Chapel within the said Town, To the Honor of God and Saint John Baptist To the intent to find there a Chaplain to celebrate Divine Service for ever for the good Estate of the king and Queen, their Souls when dead, And the Souls of all Their Progenitors, and of all The faithful deceased, And for the brethren of a certain Fraternity There for ever to be founded ordained and incorporated, Grants

16 Oct. 22 Richd. 2nd (1399) These letters Patent are with the Records of the Merchant Tailors Company. They are in Latin—a full translated copy of them will be found in the report of the Coments of Charities. P. 554.

Licence to said John and John to found ordain and incorporate a certain Fraternity for ever to endure within the said Chapel to the Honor of God and St. John Baptist, and to appoint a keeper (Custodian) of the Fraternity aforesaid, And that they who shall be keeper and Bretheren of the Fraternity aforesaid by their common assent may elect a keeper of the same Fraternity on every Occasion as they shall please and see good. Also to purchase lands, &c. to the value of 100s. a year for the Sustentation of the said Chaplain and his Successors and the same being so bought might hold to their said keeper and Bretheren and their Successors for ever for the Sustentation of the said Chaplain. And moreover that the said Fraternity may have and enjoy them with all good usages and allowable and proper Ordinances for the said Fraternity to be ordained without the let &c. The Statute of Mortmain and other statutes, &c. notwithstanding &c.

The King, by letters Patent, after reciting (by inspeximus) the Grant of the 22 Rich. II. accepts approves and to the said Keeper and Bretheren and their successors confirms the same recited Letters Patent and all therein contained.

20 May 1st, Henry 4th (1400) These letters Patent do not appear amongst the Records but there is a copy in an old Book belonging to the Merchant Tailors' Company.

John Thorp and John Sherp Bretheren of the Fraternity of Saint John Baptist of Bristol declare that, as well by the Licence and Grant of King Richard the 2nd dated 16 Oct. 22nd Richard 2nd as by Grant and Confirmation of King Henry the 4th dated at Westminster the 20th May in the first year of his Reign. They had built and founded a Chapel in the Church of St. Owen in Bristol to the Honor of God and Saint John Baptist with the assent and consent of all the Brothers and Sisters of the aforesaid Fraternity and had put Robert Gloucester into the real and corporal possession thereof to celebrate divine service therein every day at the Altar of St. John Baptist and that by vertue of said Letters Patent they had ordained and incorporated the Fraternity aforesaid in the Chapel aforesaid by the consent and assent of all the Brothers and Sisters aforesaid in the said Chapel assembled to the Honor of God and St. John

1st, May 2nd Henry 4th 1401. This Document is with the Records of the Merchant Tailors' Company.

Baptist aforesaid. And that the said Fraternity so founded by God's Grace might forever endure have and hold with all good usages and ordinances allowable and proper for the said Fraternity which Ordinances are stated to be contained in a Schedule annexed.

N.B.—No Schedule is annexed but in two whole Books belonging to the Taylors' Company and also in an old Book belonging to the Corporation of the City of Bristol are these very Ordinances. In one *large* Book belonging to the Merchant Tailors' Company and containing a Record of its Proceedings from a very early period is a Copy of the last abstracted Document and immediately following are these Ordinances preceded by this Heading "Ad Honour de Dieu et notre dame et Seint John le Baptiste, et de toutz Seintz de paradys Ceux sonne les ordenances faitz et estable 'en la fraternee de Taillours de Brystowye del Gilde de Seint John le Baptiste pour v'ue de lib'tes et licences à eux grauncez p' l'res patences du Roy Richard sc'do et confirmez et ratifiez por l'res patences de Henrie le roi le quart et inrollez en la Gildale de Bristwye en le temps de William Frour Meur de dce ville l'an du regne le Roy Henry le quart sc'de p l'assent de 'tout le com'ne Counsaill de mesme la ville assemblez illeog. aduser (*sic*) pour toutz toutz (sic, qy. *temps*)." And in another small vellum Book belonging to the Merchant Tailors' Company and containing the Ordinances of the Company made from time to time are these same Ordinances. The latter Book begins with this Heading "Ordinances fraternitatis Scti Johis Baptiste Bristolle Here beginneth the ordinances of the fraternite of Seint John Baptyste in the Church of Seint Owen of Brystowe with the Grace of God for ever to endure." Then follow a set of Ordinances which appear to relate to the religious fraternity, and to spiritual matters, and they conclude with the following form of the Oath to be taken by the Master of the Society of St. John the Baptist Juramentum Magistri and custod scte fraternitatis—"Thou N. Maister keper of the crafte* of Seint John the Baptist

This large Book is amongst the Records of the Company.

This small Book is also amongst the Records of the Company.

* It is supposed that this word craft as appearing in this place and throughout the Oath and ordinances was originally written Fraternity. —See observation below.

and ye N. N. Wardynes of the same feloship* trewly by your power and by your connyng schulle govern and kepe the crafte above seide and ye crafte of taylors and also ye schul trewly kepe al ye ordynances that longgyth to ye crafte above seide and ye composicion that is made bytwene ye maistres of ye foreseide crafte and ye soweres of ye same crafte. And also in your connyng ye schul trewly mynstre ye co'moune godys of ye foreseide craft and trewe acountes therof yelde at ye yeris ende and trewly enquer ye comune goods whiche beth behynde or elles to comyng for ye comune p'fite, that is to sey rentes by questis, fynes and gifts which beth for to arer notwysthstandyng love, ne drede, of frends, ne felawe ne of non other man whereof the comune p'fite be not abregged and ther to ye plighte your trewthe." The Book then proceeds as follows :—"Ordinacoes intitulate in Gylda aula Bristoll. To the Honor of God, of our Lady, of Seint John the Baptiste and of all Seynts thes be the Ordinances made and establissed in the crafte of Taillours of Brystowe* of Seint John the Baptiste by virtue of libertees and licences to them graunted by letters patentes of Kyng Richarde the secunde and confirmed and ratefied by lettres patentes of Kyng Herry the fourth and enrolled in ye Gilde halle of Bristowe in the tyme of William Ffrowme Mair of ye said Towne the seconnde yere of the reigne of Kyng Harry the fourth by the assent of all the comyn conseill of the same towne assembled there to endure for ever more."

Then follow a set of Ordinances which appear to relate to the Government of the Society as a Society of Tailors and principally respect the enfranchisement of Members, Election of Master and Wardens, &c., &c., and they are in all respects the same as the Ordinances which follow the above extracted French

* This word is on an Erasure and appears to have been introduced in more modern times than the rest of the Book.

This Heading and the Ordinances which follow it appear to be precisely the same as those in the large Book before referred to except that in the large Book they are in the old French and in this small Book they are in English. And in the small book the word *crafte* appears in every place to be on an erasure in the room of a word of greater length, and which there can be little doubt was originally written *fraternity* in the large book.

*There is also in this small Book an Erasure and consequent blank in this place in which no doubt the words "of the guilde" were formerly written and it would then agree with the title in the large Book as above extracted.

It seems most probable that the alteration was made when religious Societies were abolished in the reign of (delit.) so that from that time on reading the Ordinances of the Taylors Company from time to time from this small vellum Book there might be no expression therein which could be a violation of the Law.

Title in the large Book except that in this small Book they are in English. This small Book then proceeds as follows: "Here begynneth ye Ordinances of the crafte of Taillors of the frat'nite of Seint John the Baptiste y ordeyned w't ynne hemselfe." *And then follow a set of Ordinances which appear to consist principally of regulations for the government of the members of the Company in their Business of Tailors as to their keeping open shop, &c., &c.

*We do not know what this expression means. It is probable it may mean that the Ordinances were made by the Company after its Establishment.

29th June, 3rd Henry 4th 1402. The King pardons to the keeper and Brethren of the Fraternity founded within the Town of Bristol in Honor of God and St. John Baptist all Transgressions Offences Misprisions and Contempts by them committed before the 8th December last the punishment whereof would be by Fine and Imprisonment And then goes on to pardon all Treasons, &c.

This Document is with the Records of the Merchant Tailors' Company.

The King reciting the Grant of Richard the 2nd and willing that the same should be effectual Grants License to Robert Gloucestre and Richard Coton to give and assign to the keeper and Brethren of the Fraternity aforesaid a Cellar with a Sollar upon the same Cellar built upon the Key and a Toft with the Appurt's in the Town aforesaid and Suburbs of the same which celler and Sollar were held of the King in free Burgage by the service of 1¼d., and the said Toft in free Burgage by the service of 15d., and which are worth above all reprises 7s. 8d. per annum, and are to be in part satisfaction of the 100s. a year so allowed to be purchased by them.

5th Nov. 9th, Henry 4th 1408. This Document is with the Records of the Merchant Tailors' Company.

28th March 13th Elizabeth (1571).

A set of Ordinances bearing the Corporate Seal of the City of Bristol Thus intituled:—

"These be the Ordinances made and established in the Crafte of Taylors in Bristowe of Sainte John Baptyste by virtue of liberties and licenses to them granted by Letters Patentes of King Richard the Seconde and confirmed and ratified by Letters Patentes of King Henrye the fourthe and so from tyme to tyme have been confyrmed being inrolled in the Guild Hall of Bristowe in the

This Docum't is with the Records of the Company.

tyme of William Ffrowme Maior of the said Citie, in the Seconde yeare of King Henrie the Fourthe by the assent of all the comon counseil of the same Citie there assembled to endure for ever."

The ordinances which follow relate to the choice of Master of the Company, the Government thereof and other matters of general Regulation.

7th May 13th Eliz'th (1571).

Exemplification under the great Seal of certain Ordinances granted on the 28th August 28th Henry 6th by Willm. Canynge then Mayer of the Town of Bristol and other the Bailiffs and chief men of the common council of the said Town then assembled to the approved Men of the Mystery and Company of Taylors, Goldsmiths and Cordwainers of the said Town and under the common Seal of the said Town then remaining which recite a Supplication made to them by the good Persons of the craft of Taylors Goldsmiths and Cordwainers and ordain certain regulations about the Trade of Taylors. "In Witness of which Ordinances at the special prayers of John Naucotyn Master of the Fraternity of Saint John Baptist and Master of the Craft of Taylors and of other good persons of the said Craft. The Seal of the Office of Mayralte aforesaid to this present We the said William Canyn Mayor have commanded to be set."

This Docum't is amongst the Records of the Company.

Also of certain other Ordinances made by the Mayor Aldermen Sheriffs and others their Brethren of the Common Council of the said City on the 22nd September 3rd Elizth. at the humble petitions and requests of Richard Bonde Master of the Craft or Mistery of Tailors of the City of Bristol Thomas Owen and Giles Paynter Wardens and of all others the good men of the said Craft for the good Government and utility of the said Craft which Ordinances contain regulations for the like purpose. Also of the before ment'd Ordinances made 28th March 13th Eliz'th.

A set of Ordinances under the Hands and Seals of Thomas Bromley Knight Lord Chancellor of England, William Cecil Knight, Lord Burghley Lord High Treasurer of England and Christopher Wray Knight Lord Chief

June 21st, Eliz'th (1579) This Docum't is amongst the Records of the Company.

Justice of the Queen's Bench After reciting the Act of the 19th of Henry 7th enacting that all Ordinances for the Government of Crafts and Fellowships should be examined and approved by the Chancellor &c. this Instrument proceeds as follows.

"Know ye that John Watkyns nowe Master of the Company and Ffellowshippe of the Misterye of Marchaunt Taylors of the Cittie of Bristowe Edward Bradley and Philippe Williams wardens of the same with the whole assent and consent of the said ffellowshipp and Companye willinge and desyringe the saide Acte of Parlyament in all and everything to be dulye observed and kept the sixte daye of Maye in the one twentith yeare of the reigne of our Sovereigne Lady Quene Elizabeth have exhibited their Bill of Peticion unto us earnestlye requestinge that we accordinge to the said Acte of Parlyament woulde pase examyne approve and allowe suche Acte and Ordinances as the saide Master Wardens and Companye for the better Governement contynuance order and mayntenance of their saide Companye and fellowshippe of the saide Misterie uppon good deliberacion have made and devised as well by virtue of Lett's Patent made and granted to the saide fellowshipp and Companye by the late King Richard the seconde confirmed and ratified by Kinge Henry the ffourth as also by other addicions graunted by the Maiors Bretheren and comon Councell of the saide Cittie of later tymes and with the same Petition have presented unto us a Booke conteyninge their said Act and Ordynances The tenours whereof hereafter ensue."

Then follow the Ordinances which relate to the Election of a Master and Wardens and the general regulations of the Company and as to Workmen, Apprentices &c.

All which Acts and Ordinances Constitutions &c at the request of the said Master Wardens, Fellowship and Compy. the s'd Ld Chancr. High Treasr. and Chief Justice did accept allow and admit ratify confirm and approve.

ABSTRACT OF DEEDS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE PROPERTY OF THE COMPANY AND BEARING DATE BETWEEN THE CHARTER OF RICHARD THE 2ND BEFORE ABSTRACTED AND THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN BY LETTERS PATENT OF THE 45TH OF ELIZABETH AFTER ABSTRACTED.

1st August 2nd Henry 4th (1400) This Document is in Latin.

John Candener and others grant to Richard Coton, keeper of the Fraternity of St John the Baptist Bristol and to the Brethren of the same Fraternity and to their Successors for ever 3 Shops and Gardens in the Suburbs of the Town of Bristol in a place called Brode Meade, For the support of the sd ffraternity and that the Chaplain of the same might celebrate Divine Service for the souls of Simon Oliver and Agnes his wife and of John Winchester and the souls of all the Brethren and Sisters of the Fraternity of Saint John the Baptist.

20th Feby 3rd Henry 4th (1401-2) This Document is in Latin.

Edmund Arthur Esq in honour of the Holy Trinity, of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and St John the Baptist grants to Robert Gloucestre Chaplain of the Fraternity of St John Baptist and the Brethren and Sisters of the same Fraternity in the Town of Bristol a Messuage with 2 shops and the Appurt's in the Town of Bristol in Brode Street. To hold to said Robert Gloucester and his Successors Chaplains and to the Brethren and Sisters of the same Fraternity for ever paying yearly to said Edmund his heirs and Ass'ns 26s 8d. Also grants to said Robert and the Brethren and Sisters aforesaid and their successors a certain void place behind same Messuage.

26s 8d is at this day payable out of the Tailors Hall to the Parish of All Saints.

To Hold "in puram et perpetuam elemosynam" That they and their

This appears to be the foundation of the Hall which afterwards became and was called the Tailors' Hall. It is endorsed in an old handwriting; "The Chartre of our Hall."

Successors in honour of God and St. John the Baptist might build a certain Hall for the Guild of the Fraternity afo'd with Intention that all Discords between the Brethren and Sisters of the same Fraternity might in the same Hall be reconciled and that the Chaplain Brethren and Sisters and their Successors might therein pray for the Soul of said Edmund as the ffounder of the same Hall and for the Souls of several other persons mention'd.

9th Henry 4th (1408.) This Document is in Latin. See the abstract of this Licence pa.

Robert Gloucestre and Richard Coton after Reciting that Richard Danes a Burgess of Bristol by his Will gave a certain Cellar with a Sollar situate in the Suburbs of Bristol on the Key to the Fraternity of Saint John the Baptist of Bristol "in perpetuam elemosynam" and willing that the Gift aforesaid should be effectual Did by license of King Henry 4th Dated at Gloucester, 5th November, in the 9th year of his reign Grant to Henry Ransford, keeper of s'd Fraternity and the brethren of the same—Said Cellar. To Hold to them and their Successors in part Sustentation of our Chapel and in Memory of said Richard Danes "in perpetuam elemosynam" and of the foundation of sd Fraternity, according to the form and effect of the will of said Richard Danes.

28th Henry 6th (1449). This Document is in English.

An Exemplification of a view made by order of William Canynges Mayor upon a complaint made by John Naucotyn Master of the Fraternity of Saint John the Baptist, in the name of all the Brethren and Sisters of the same Fraternity that certain Grou'd within the Town of Bristol in Baldwin Street of the freehold of said Master and Fraternity, by the Priour of the Kalendars should be encroched and purprestured.

17th Edwd. 4th (1476). This Document is in Latin.

Alice late wife of Henry Chestre and John Chestre his son and Heir Grant to William Spencer John Snygge and others a Tenement and Cellars in the Town of Bristol in Brade Street. To Hold to them their Heirs and Assi's for ever.

Another Instrument under the Hands of said Alice and John Chestre

17th Edwd. 4th (1476). This Document is in Latin.

declaring the various pious and charitable uses to be performed by said Willm. Spencer John Snygge and others respecting the property comprized in the last Grant and which relate to religious Services to be performed in the parish Church of All Saints Bristol. Exemplification of a view of a Wall in Baldwyn Street then being in variance between the Master Wardens and Brethren of the Craft of Tailors of the Town of Brystowe of the one part and Philip Kyngstone of the other part.

8th Nov'r. 22 Edwd. 4th (1481). This Document is in English.

Feoffment from John Arthur to Evan Jones Tailor Master of the Society of Saint John the Baptist of the Town of Bristol and to the Brethren of the same Fraternity of one void piece of Ground lying in a place called Brade Street in said Town between a Messuage of the same Master and Brethren called Taylors' Hall on the South side and a messuage, etc. on the North side. To hold to the same Master and Brethren of the Fraternity afores'd and their Successors for ever at the yearly rent of 6s 8d Sterling.

18th July. 7th Henry 8th (1515). This Document is in Latin.

N.B. The Tailors Hall spoken of as belonging to the Fraty. of St John Baptist.

Feoffment from Roger Strange and others to Roger Cooke and others of Messuage called Le Lambe with a void place adjoining in the Suburbs of the Town of Bristol in West Tucker Street between a Tenement and Shop of the Master and Brethren of the Fraternity of St. John the Baptist and a lane leading to Saint Thomas Street.

12th Novr. 9th Henry 8th (1517). This Document is in Latin.

Feoffment from Richard Sheffyld Clerk Chaplain of the Fraternity of Saint John the Baptist and the Brethren and Sisters of the same Fraternity in the Town or City of Bristol with one mind and Consent to Henry Leeke and others of the same Town or City Tailors (Scissoribus) and Brethren of the same fraternity of a Messuage in Broad Street and void ground behind the same and all other Mess'es &c. to this Fraternity and the Brethren and Sisters of the same belongs. To Hold to said Henry Leeke and others their Heirs and Assi's for ever. To the use and Behoof of the Brethren

1st Sepr. 29th Henry 8th (1537). This Document is in Latin.

and Sisters of the said Fraternity and their Successors. And for want of such Brethren and Sisters of the Fraternity afores'd To the use and Behoof of the Art Business and Mystery of Tailors of the said Town or city of Bristol and their Successors for the time being forever. In Witness of which as well the Seal of said Richard the Chaplain aforesaid As the Common Seal of the Brethren and Sisters of the Fraternity aforesaid is affixed.

Note. Common Seal of the Fraternity spoken of but the Seal has worn off the label to which it was affixed.

Feoffment from Rowland Cooper and others to Thomas Chewarde and Richard Wycan of Bristol Tailors of a Tenement in Broade Street which said Rowland Cooper and others had by the Gift of Feoffment of Richard Harvie Son and Heir of Humphrey Harvie Ex'r of the Will of John Thomas late Vicar of the Parish of All Saints Relative and Heirs of John Chester formerly of the Town of Bristol aforesaid March't Son and Heir of Henry Chester, formerly of the same Town draper dec'd by feoffment dated 20th June 16th Hy. 8th. To Hold to said Thomas Chewarde and Richard Wycan their Heirs and Ass'ns for ever. To the use and Behoof of the Art Business and Mystery of Tailors of Bristol afores'd and their Successors for the time being for ever.

29th June. 2nd Edwd. 6th (1547). This Document is in Latin.

See the Deeds of the 17th Edwd. 4th which seem to relate to these same premises.

Feoffment from said Thomas Chewarde and Richard Wycan to Nicholas Williams and others of the same Tenement in Brode Street. To hold to said Nicholas Williams and others their Heirs and Assi'ns for ever. To the use and Behoof of the Art Business and Mystery of Tailors of Bristol afores'd and their Successors for the time being for ever.

1st July same year. This Document is in Latin.

Lease from Thomas Kinorgan Master of the Tailors Crafte in Bristow, Thomas Griffith and William Merycke Wardens of the same Crafte To said Thomas Kinorgan of A little garden ground in the Parish of Seynt James the Apostle in Bristow For Forty years Yielding and paying to said Master and to his Successors for the time being Masters of the said Crafte or to

6th June. 3rd Edwd. 6th (1548). This Document is in English.

their Assi'ns 12d. yearly at the feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist. "In Witness wh'of to the one part of this Indenture remaining with said Master and Wardens and their Successors for the time being the foresaid Thomas Kinorgan hath put his Seal and to the other part of this Indenture remaining with said Thomas Kinorgan and his assigns the foresaid Master and Wardens hath put their Common Seal of their said Crafte.

N.B. Common Seal.

Feoffment from Henry Leeke and three others described as of Bristol Tailors and Feoffees of all the lands, &c., belonging to the Mystery Business and Art of Tailors in the City of Bristol to Roger Walker and others of Bristol Tailors of All that Messuage and 2 Shops in Brode Strete with the void ground behind and all other Mess'es Lands rents, etc., belonging to said Fraternity and the Brethren and Sisters of the same situate lying and being within same City and the liberties and suburbs of the same, to Hold to said Roger Walker and others their Heirs and Assi's for ever. To the use and Behoof of the Art Business and Mystery of Tailors in the s'd City of Bristol and their Successors for the time being for ever.

10th Oct. 6th Edward 6th, (1551). This Document is in Latin.

Lease from Roger Walker Master of the Mystery and Craft of Tailors within the Cytie of Bristowe Gilbert Roberts and Richard Rose Wardens of the same Craft with the Assent and Consent of all the whole Compy of the same Craft to Henry Leeke and Joanne his wife Tailor of Two Tenements called the Lambe standing in Tucker Street for 99 years yielding and paying yearly to said Master and to his Successors Masters for the time being of the same Crafte £3. In Witness whereof to the one part of this Indenture remaining with said Henry Leeke and Joanne his wife and their Assigns the forenamed Roger Walker Master with the Assent and Consent of the said Wardens and all the Company of the said Craft have set the Common Seal of the same Craft and to the other part, etc.

7th August, 1st Queen Mary, (1553). This Doc't is in English.

N.B.—Common Seal.

Grant from John Farnham described as one of the Queen's Gentlemen

Pensioners to George Badram of the City of Bristol his heirs and Assi's for ever of a Tenement in Wine Street in the City of Bristol then or lately in occupation of Philip Scapulis, A Tenement called the Lambe in Saint Thomas Street then or lately in the Tenure of Henry Leeke extending to a place called Tucker Street. A Tenement called the sign of the Lambe with a Parlor called the Tailor's Parlor in Broade Street between the street and the entrance door of the Hall called the Tailor's Hall. And all that Tenement called the Tailor's Hall with the kitchen and appurt's in Brode Strete. A Tenement in Brode Street between the Tenement called the sign of the Lambe and a Tenement of Wm. Younge and the Rev., etc. And all the Rents and Profits, etc., in as full and ample a manner as said John Farnham and one John Dodington lately held the same of the Gift and Grant of Queen Elizabeth by Letters Patent under the great Seal Dated the 2nd Sept., 17th Eliz'th., and which John Dodington by Ind're Dated the 3rd same Sept. released all his Title interest and Demands in the same premises to said John Farnham his Heirs and Ass'ns. to Hold to and to the use of said George Badram his Heirs and Ass'ns. in feefarm to be holden of the s'd Queen and her successors as of her Manor of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in free and common Socage by Fealty and not in Capite or by Knight Service and Yielding annually to said Queen her Heirs and Successors 10s. yearly at Michaelmas for all Services, etc.

26th Sept., 17th Eliz'bth (1574). This Document is in Latin.

Grant from John Herbert and Andreas Palmer to John Dodington and Nicholas Harvie their Heirs and Assi's of a Tenement with Cellars and Appurts' and 2 Gardens 4 Stables and 1 Warehouse situate in Broade Street, Bristol given limited and appointed by Alice late wife of Henry Chestre* to keep an Anniversary of the Deaths of said Henry and Alice in the Parish Church of All Saints in the City of Bristol. And a Tenement in the High Street, Bristol—And a Tenement situate in Broade Street lately given and appointed by Richard Harvie for an Anniversary of his death in the Chapel of St John the Baptist in the Church of St. Owen in the City aforesaid

10th Novr. 17th Eliz'th. (1574). This Document is in Latin.

*See the Deeds of the 17th Edwd, 4th.

which premises said Herbert and Palmer had of the gift of Queen Eliz'th by Letters Patent dated 22nd Sept. 17th Eliz'th.

To hold to and to the use of said John Dodington and Nicholas Harvie their Heirs and Ass's for ever. To be holden of the Queen her Heirs and Successors of her Manor of East Greenwich, etc.

16th July 18th Eliz'th (1575). This Document is in Latin.

The Queen by Letters Patent under the Great Seal for a fine of £16 16s. 10¼d. paid into the Exchequer by Edw. ffenton granted and to farm let to said Edw. ffenton three tenements in Temple Street A Ten'mt in Tucker Street A Tenement in Baldwin Street A Tenement in Fisher Lane, A Cellar on the Key, A Tenement in Broade Street A Tenement in Wyne Street Four Ten'mts in Marshall Street A Ten'mt in the occupation of Agnes Williams A Tenement in King Street 3 Ten'mts in the occupation of several persons therein named 4 gardens in the occupation of several persons also named two Cottages and a decayed Tenement in Broade Meade A Garden at Monkbridge A Ten'mt in the High Street 2 Tenements in Worshipful Street All in the City of Bristol all which Grant from said John Dodington and Nicholas Harvie to Humphrey Androwes Walter Jones and Philip Brown their Heirs and Assi's of (name not stated) A Messuage with Cellars and Appt's in Brode Street, Bristol to Hold to and to the use of said Androwes Jones and Brown their Heirs and Assi's for ever.

1st August. 18th Eliz'th (1575). This Document is in English.

5th Jan. 18th Eliz'th (1575). This Document is in English.

Feoffment by George Snygg of the City of Bristol Merchant Reciting the Feoffment of the 17th Edward 4th by Alice Chestre and John Chestre to William Spencer John Snygg and others of the Tenement in Brode Street And that said John Snygg survived all the others feoffees by reason whereof the premises lawfully came to said John Snygg by right of Survivorship, And that he afterwards died and that upon his decease the premises descended by the law to said George Snygg as his son and heir.

Then said George Snygg for the better performance of the Trust in his said father amongst the rest reposed And that the profits and commo-

dities of the premises might redound and come to the use and Maintenance of the Craft and Company of Tailors within said City of Bristowe who had by all the time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary received taken and enjoyed the Benefit and Profits of the premises for the relief of the Poor decayed of the same Company and for other good uses purposes and intents commodious and profitable for the better Government and Maintenance of the same Company did Grant and Confirm to Robert Hallton Chamberlain of the sd City Walter Jones and others Said Mess's and Tenements with the Appurtenances, to hold to said Robert Hallton Walter Jones and others their Heirs and Ass's.

To the uses Behoof Intents and Purposes for and to the which the Profits thereof had been employed and bestowed most commonly by the space of 20 years then last past.

Said Tenements, Cottages, and Gardens are stated to have lately belonged to the fraternity of St John the Baptist otherwise the fraternity of Tailors (Sutorum Vestiariorum) within the parish of St. Owen within the city of Bristol and were stated to be parcel of the lands and possessions being in the Queen's Hands by virtue of the Act of Parliament for the Dissolution of Chantries Colleges and other like things.

This Instrum't shews that the prop'y belonging to the Comp'y was at that time in the hands of or at least claimed by the Crown. They were afterwards re-granted by the Letters Patent of the 45th Elizth after abstracted. The Prem's in this Demise and in that Grant appear to be the same.

To Hold to said Edward ffenton his ex'ors and assi's for the term of 21 years yielding yearly to the Queen her Heirs and Successors £16 16s 10¼d at Michaelmas into the hands of the Receiver for the time being.

And the Queen for herself her heirs and successors agreed to discharge sd Edward Fenton during all the term from all Rents payable to the Chamberlain of the City of Bristol—the rent called Langable—to the lately dissolved House of Magdalene—the rent to the Cathedral Church and the rent to Christ Church amounts in the whole to 47s and 5¼d vizt To the Chamberlain of the City of Bristol 2s. For the dissolved rent called Langable 3s and 3¼d. For the dissolved House of Magdalen

This rent of 16s. is still paid to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol.

18s 8d. To the Cathedral Church of Bristol 16s. And to Christ Church issuing out of the tenement in Broad Meade 7s 6d.

April, 19th Eliz'th (1576). This Document is in English.

Indenture made between Humphrey Androws of Bristol Merchant Tailor of the one part and Walter Jones and others Citizens and Merchant Tailors of the same City of the other part.

It is witn'd that said Humphrey Androws for divers good causes etc. Did grant and confirm to said Walter Jones and others a Tenement with the Appurtenances then or late in the occupat'n of Philip Scapulis situate in Wine Street Bristol and a little Mess'e with the Appurt's. situate in Broade Street Bristol,

To hold to and to the use of said Walter Jones and others their Heirs and Ass's for ever in fee farm. To be holden of the Queen of her Manor of East Greenwich in the County of Kent in free and common socage.

Yielding and paying to the Queen her Heirs and Successors such yearly fee farm as for the same was proportionably to become due after that rate which by the Queen's Letters Patent to John Farnham and John Dodington thereof was reserved.

6th June. 20th Eliz'th (1577). This Document is in English.

Ind're made between Walter Jones and others described as feoffees of the lands etc. belonging to the Society and fellowship of Tailors within the City of Bristol of the one part and George Snygg of the same City Merchant and late Mayor of the same City John Watkins Humphrey Androws and others of the same City Tailors of the other part.

Reciting that said George Snygge of his own free gift towards the relief and benefit of the same Society and Company had lately paid to said Humphrey Androws to the use of the same Company the sum of £10 to be used for the benefit of the same Company for ever for the memory of which virtuous and charitable liberality it was cov'ted between said parties and said feoffees did give grant and confirm to said Snygg Watkins Androws and others.

One annuity of 20s. to be issuing out of a Mess'e with the Appurts situate within said City of Bristol in a Street then called the High Street To Have perceive and enjoy same to said Snygge Watkins Androws and others their Heirs and Assi's for ever on the Monday next after Trinity Sunday yearly. And it was agreed between the parties that said Snygg Watkins Androws and others should yearly on or before the 24th June pay said Rent of 20s. to the Master of said Company of Tailors for the time being who should upon the morrow see and prepare the same to be bestowed amongst 3 score poor people of and within said City. To every of them 4d. or the value thereof in Bread at the Discret'n of the said Master. And it was further agreed that if the 20s. should not be yearly bestowed in manner aforesaid the same should be distributed by said George Snygg amongst the poor prisoners in Newgate within said City of Bristol at or before the 1st of July then next in default of Employment as aforesaid.

Exemplification of a Record of Michaelmas Term 18th Elizabeth upon an informat'n by the Att'y Gen. setting forth that one Tenement and Garden situate in St. Thomas parish in Bristol in the occup'n of Henry Leeke and one Tenement in Baldwin Street in the parish of St. Stephen in the occup'n of John Felde and one other Tenement in Wyne Street in the parish of Christ Church in the occup'n of Philip Scapulis all which premises lately belonged to the Fraternity of Saint John the Baptist otherwise the Fraternity of Tailors within the parish of St. Owen in the said City of Bristol were parcel of the possessions in the Hands of the Queen in right of her Crown yet that said Henry Leeke John Felde and Philip Scapulis were in the possession of the same and of the rents and profits in contempt of the Queen and against the law whereupon the Attorny General prayed the judgment of the Court and that said Henry John and Philip sho' answer the Queen in the premises and afterwards said Henry Leeke John Felde and Philip Scapulis as to the contempt, etc., plead not guilty and put themselves upon the Country, etc. And as to the intrusion into the Tene-

16th Feb. 20th Eliz'th (1577). This Document is in Latin.

See the Feoffm't of this date abstracted in paragraph.

ment and Garden in the Parish of St. Thomas said Henry Leeke saith that before the time one Richard Carye was seized of the same in his Demesne as of Fee and being so seized by writing dated 12th May, 18th Eliz'th enfeoffed Robert Halton and others their Heirs and Assi'ns for ever by virtue whereof they were seized in fee and that said Henry Leeke by permission of said Robert Halton and others entered and received the rents and profits to the use of said Robert Halton and others as he lawfully might, &c. And as to the intrusion into the two Tenements in Baldwin Street and Wyne Street said Felde and Scapulis say that one Henry Leeke and others before and at the time were seized of the same and that they by writing dated the 10th Oct., 6th Edw'd 6th enfeoffed Roger Walker and others their Heirs and Ass'ns for ever by virtue whereof they were seized in fee. And that certain of them died and that the survivors being so seized permitted said Felde and Scapulis to take the rents and profits of said two Tenements and that they took the same, etc., as they l'fully might. All which said Henry Leeke John Felde and Philip Scapulis were ready to prove, etc. To which the Att'y General replied protesting and knowing nothing of what in the said Plea was specified and praying that it may be enquired of by the Country, etc. And said Leeke Felde and Scapulis did the like, etc. and whereupon it was ordered that a Jury, etc., and afterwards at the Assizes for the City of Bristol the Jurors say that said Henry Leeke John Felde and Philip Scapulis into and upon the possession of the said Queen of the premises aforesaid have not entered nor intruded as within alledged. All which at the instance and request of said Henry Leeke John Felde and Philip Scapulis under the great seal is exemplified.

By this Record it would appear there was a dispute whether the Crown was or was not entitled to the property of the Company and that the question was decided against the Crown.

Lease from Walter Jones and others described as feoffees of all the lands etc. belonging to the Craft Company and occupation of Tailors within the City of Bristow as well with their and every of their one Assent Consent Goodwill and full Agreem't

10th April, 21st Eliz'th (1578). This Document is in English.

as with the Assent Consent Goodwill and full Agreement of John Watkins then Master of said Craft and company of Tailors Philip Williams and Edward Bradley then Wardens of said Craft and Company and all other the auncientest of the said Craft and Company to John Oliver and hi Ass'ns of all that their Tenement in Fisher Lane Bristol for 82 years at the yearly rent of 16s. *vide* back.

Feoffment from Thomas Kelke of Bristol Merch't Reciting the abstracted feoffment from Robert Strange and others dated 12th Nov. 9 Hy. 8th and that all the feoffees then named had died except said Thos. Kelke who was then seized of the premises by right of Survivor. Then said Thomas Kelke according to the confidence in him amongst the rest reposed and to the Intent that the Profits of the premises might redound to the use and Maintenance of the Craft and Comp'y of Tailors within said City who had time out of mind received and employed the profits for the premises for the relief of the decayed Poor of the same Company and for other good uses commodious and profitable for the better Government of the same Comp'y, Did grant and confirm to Robert Halton Walter Jones and others their Heirs and Assn's said messuage, cellar and void ground called *The Lamb* To hold to them to the uses Behoof Intents and Purposes for and to the which the profits thereof had been bestowed and employed most commonly by the space of 20 years then last (*sic*).

15th December, 21st Eliz'th (1578). This Document is in English.

Lease from Walter Jones and others Citizens and Tailors of the City of Bristow and feoffees of all the land etc. of the Comp'y or fellowship of the Tailors of said City to John Oliver of the same City Merch't of all that their Messuage situate in Baldwyn Street Bristol for 99 years at the yearly rent of 40s.

7th November, 24th Eliz'th (1581). This Document is in English.

Indenture made between Gilbert Roberts Thomas Owen and Thomas Mourrey of Bristow Merchant Tailors described as the surviving feoffees of divers lands Tenements and Appurt's belonging to the Society Brotherhood and Comp'y of Merch't Tailors within said City of Bristol on the one part and John Watkins of the

31st Oct'r (1589.) This Document is in English.

same City Tailor of the other part. It is witn'ssd that said feoffees as well in consideration of a certain competent sum of money paid by said John Watkins to said Feoffees to the use of said Society Brotherhood and Comp'y of Tailors as for other good causes etc. did bargain sell and confirm to said John Watkins

A Messuage with the Appurt's within said City of Bristol in a street then called the High Street. To hold and to the use of said John Watkins his Heirs and Ass'ns for ever, at the yearly rent of 26s. 8d., to be paid used disposed and employed as after expressed and no otherwise that is to say, 20s. parcel of said rent to be paid to and for the better perform'ce of the godlie and charitable Act and purpose of George Snygg of the same City Merch't lately by him freely given and disposed towards the relief of the Poor upon the Monday next after Trinity Sunday yearly for ever according to the meaning of a certain Ind're lately made between said Feoffees and others of the one part and said George Snygg and others on the other part And 6s. 8d. residue of said rent to be paid to said Feoffees their Heirs and Ass'ns to the use of said Company.

4th Octr. 38th Elizabeth (1595). This Document is in English.

Agreement between John Owen and others described as feoffees of the lands, &c. &c. belonging to the Company and Society of Tailors within the City of Bristol William Busher Master of said Comp'y of Tailors and James Newton and Roger Justice Wardens of the said Comp'y and by George Snygge Esq. Recorder of the same City. William Ellis and other persons Parishioners of the Parish Church of St. John the Baptist within the same City and William Vawells then Parson and Incumbent of the same Church whereby it was agreed that the Parishioners should for ever have a right of Burial and perambulat'n from Broad Street to the Parish Church yard of Saint John the Baptist through a Gate called the Tailors Hall Gate and thro'h a door lying in the wall between said Tailors Hall Gate and the Church Yard paying yearly to said feoffees or their Assi'ns 12d. towards the repairs of said Gate called the Tailors Gate for the quiet enjoying whereof said feoffees and

This rent is still paid by St. John's Parish. See the Report of the Comm'r of Charities. (P. 562.)

N.B. Commo

Seal. The seal is worn off the Label of the Deed found amongst the Records of Mer. Tailors Comp'y but the Duplicate of this Deed amongst the Records of St. John's Parish has the Seal appended to it, it is in a perfect state, and it is quite clear that it was made with the identical Seal now found in the Tailors Hall. This duplicate will be forthcoming 34.

Comp'y of Tailors should keep 2 keys and said Parishioners and Parson and their Successors should keep 2 other keys And a power is reserved to the feoffees Master Wardens and Company of Tailors to stop up and deny the way of said parishioners and parsons if the yearly rent should be unpaid for a month after due. In Witness whereof all the said parties as well the said feoffees Master and Wardens have put their Hands and Seals and the Common Seal of their Hall as also the said Parishioners and Parson have to either part of these presents put their Hands and Seals.

17th Decr. 45th Eliz'th. (1602). These Letters Patent are amongst the Records of the Company.

By Letters Patent under the Great Seal Queen Elizabeth in consideration of £96 and 20d paid into the exchequer by George Snygg Esq John Harrison of the City of Bristol Draper Richard Ryce William Busher Samuel Willet William Harrison John Cole John Greene Robert Curtis, Thomas Cowley Edward Saunders and John Watkins Junior of the City of Bristol Tailors granted to said Snygg and others their Heirs and Assi'ns. All those three Tenements in Temple Street One Tenement in Tucker Street One Tenement in Baldwin Street A Tenement in Fisher Lane A Tenement or Cellar on the Key A Tenement in Broad Street A Tenement in Wine Street Four Tenements in Marshall Street A Tenement in Bristol late in occupation of Agnes Williams or her Assigns One Tenement in King Street Parish of Saint James. Three Tenements in said King Street Four Gardens in the occupation of the same Tenants as the King Street Houses Three Tenements in Broade Mead A garden at Monkbridge in the Parish of St John A Tenement in High Street Parish of All Saints Two Tenements in Worshipful Street Saint Mary le port all situate in the City of Bristol. All which premises are thus described in the Letters Patent the whole of which are in Latin.

N.B. There is no mention of any Company in this Grant.

Omnia illa tria tenementa nostra quondam vel nuper ruinosa jacentia

in Temple Strete in Civitate nostra Bristoliae modo in seperalibus tenuris sive occupationibus Joh'is Younge Thomae Clement et Mathei Morgan vel assignatorum suorum annui valoris viginti solidorum parcell terrarum et tenementorum in manibus nostris existentium ratione actus Parliamenti edit pro dissolut. Cantarum et al hujusmodi in comitatu nostro Gloucestriae. Necnon totum illud tenementum cum pertinentibus Tucker Strete in Parochia Sainti Thomæ in predicto comitatu in Civitate nostra Bristolliae quondam in tenura sive occupatione Thomae More ac modo in tenura sive occupatione Alicie Locke vel assignatorum suorum annui valoris quinque librarum. Necnon totum illud tenementum nostrum jacentem in Baldwin Strete in parochia sancti Stephani in comitatu civitatis Bristolliae quondam in tenura sive occupatione Edmundi Prynne ac modo in tenura sive occupatione Thomae Cooper vel assignatorum suorum annui valoris quadraginta solidorum. Necnon totum illud tenementum nostrum in Fisher Lane in eadem parochia sancti Stephani in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae quondam in tenura sive occupatione Agneti Michell ac modi in tenura sive occupatione Christopheri Worgin vel assignatorum suorum annui valoris sexdecem solidorum. Necnon totum illud tenementum sive Cellar apud le key in dicta parochia sancti Stephani quondam in tenura sive occupatione Nicholas Kelley ac modo in tenura sive occupatione Thomas Tallowhill vel assignatorum suorum annui valoris sex solidorum Ac etiam totum illud tenementum nostrum in Brode Strete in parochia sancti Adeoni in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae quondam vel nuper in tenura sive occupatione Roberti Newell ac modo in tenura sive occupatione Johannis Berwicke vel assignatorum suorum annui valoris viginti solidorum. Necnon totum illud tenementum nostrum cum pertinentibus in Wynne Strete in Parochia sainti Christi in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae quondam vel nuper in tenura sive occupatione Willi Powell ac modo in tenura vel occupatione Johannis Butcher vel assignatorum suorum annui valoris trium librarum sex solidorum et octo denariorum. Necnon omnia illa quatuor tenementa nostra in Marshall Strete cum pertinentibus in parochia

sancti Jacobi in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae nuper in separalibus tenuris sive occupationibus Johannis Prewett Johannis Fawknor Willi Williams et Georgii Gray vel eorum aliquorum vel alicujus vel assignatorum eorum aliquorum vel alicujus annui valoris viginti sex solidorum octo denariorum. Necnon totum illud Tenementum nostrum cum pertinentibus in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae nuper in tenura sive occupatione Agneti Williams vel assignatorum suorum annui valoris duorum solidorum. Necnon totum illud tenementum nostrum cum pertinentibus in Kinge Strete in parochia sancti Jacobi in predicto comitatu Civitatis Bristoliae modo vel nuper in tenura sive occupatione Patricii Moore annui redditus quinque solidorum. Necnon omnia illa tria tenementa nostra cum pertinentibus in Kinge Strete in predicta comitatu civitatis Bristoliae modo vel nuper in separalibus tenuris sive occupatione Cornelii Toge et Johannis Jay vel eorum alterius ac modo in tenuris vel occupationibus Johannis Cole Laurence Wilson et—Wilson viduae et Johannis Lawrence vel eorum aliquorum seu alicujus vel assignatorum eorum seu aliquorum seu alicujus eorum annui valoris quindecem solidorum. Ac etiam omnia illa Quatnor gardina nostra cum pertinentibus in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae quondam in seperalibus tenuris sive occupationibus Richardi—Willi Busher David Appowell et Procuratorium sancti Petri Bristoliae aut eorum aliquorum seu alicujus vel assignatorum suorum aut eorum aliquorum ac modo in tenuris sive occupationibus dictorum Johannis Cole Lawrencii Wilson et — Wilson viduae aut eorum aliquorum vel alicujus vel assignatorum suorum aut assignatorum eorum aliquorum vel alicujus annui valoris quatuor solidorum. Necnon omnia illa tria tenementa nostra cum pertinentibus in Broade Meade in parochia Sancti Jacobi in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae quorum duo fuerunt quondam in tenuris sive occupationibus Johannis Searche et Johannes ap Merricke vel eorum alterius vel assignatorum suorum aut assignatorum eorum alterius et alterum eorundem trium tenementorum nuper in decasu existentium ac modo in tenuris sive occupationibus Roberti Hemens Thomae Dutton et Arthuri Zey aut eorum alicujus vel

assignatorum suorum aut eorum alicujus per particulare inde an'nal valoris viginti solidorum. Necnon totum illud gardinum nostrum cum pertinentibus jacentem apud Monkebridge in parochia sancti Johannis in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae quondam in tenura sive occupatione Johannis Hathway et modo in tenura sive occupatione Thomae Farmer vel assignatorum suorum per particulare inde annui valoris trium solidorum. Necnon totum illud Tenementum nostrum cum pertinentibus in alto vico in Parochia Omnium Sanctorum in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae quondam in tenura sive occupatione Willi. Sarlett ac modo in tenura sive occupatione Willi. Slade vel assignatorum suorum per particulare inde annui reditus sive valoris viginti solidorum et octo denariorum. Necnon omnia illa duo tenementa nostra cum pertinentibus in Worshippful Strete in parochia beata Marie Porte in predicto comitatu civitatis Bristoliae quondam in tenura sive occupationibus Walteri Tynte et Agneti Compton vel eorum alterius ac modo in tenura sive occupatione Johannis Cadwallader vel assignatorum suorum per particulare inde annui valoris tresdecem solidorum et quatuor denariorum. Quae omnia et singula premissa jacent et existant infra civitatem nostram Bristoliae predictae libertatem ejusdem ac nunc sunt parcell. possessionum terrarum et tenementorum in manibus nostris existentium ratione Actus Parliamenti edit pro dissolutione Cantarum et al. hujusmodi in dicto comitatu ac nuper a nobis concessat. Ac etiam omnia et singula Messuagia, &c.

15th May. 16th Charles I (1640). This Document is amongst the Records of the Company.

A set of Ordinances under the Hands and Seals John Lord Finch Lord Keeper of the Great Seal of England Sir John Bramston Knight Chief Justice of the King's Bench Sir Edward Littleton Knight Chief Justice of the Common Pleas. After reciting the Act of the 19th Henry 7th and stating that Paul Williams then Master of the Comp'y and Fellowship of the Mystery of Merchant Taylors of the City of Bristol Thomas Phelps and Willi'm Boys Wardens of the same Comp'y with the whole assent and consent of said ffellowship and Comp'y desiring said Act of Parliament to be duly observed had exhibited to said Lord Keeper and Chief Justices

their petition requesting that they would approve and allow such ordinances as said Master Wardens and Compy. for the better government of their said Compy. and fellowshipp of the said Mystery upon good deliberation had made and devised as well by virtue of letters Patent granted to said fellowship and Compy. by King Richard the second confirmed and ratified by King Henry the 4th as also by other additions granted by the Mayors and Common Council of said City of later times and which formerly had been ratified and approved in the Reign of Queen Elizabeth and with the same petition had presented a Book containing their said ordinances the tenor whereof is stated thereafter to ensure. And then setting forth the ordinances which appear to relate to the general regulation of the Company.

Said Lord Keeper and Chief Justices did accept allow and admit ratify confirm and approve the same Ordinances.

"Jo. Finch O. L. John Branston Edward Littleton."

N.B.—These Ordinances continued to be the existing Ordinances of the Company down to the time of its dissolution.

ABSTRACT OF SEVERAL DEEDS RELATING TO THE PROPERTY OF THE COMPANY AND BEARING DATE SUBSEQUENTLY TO THE GRANT FROM THE CROWN BY THE LETTERS PATENT OF THE 45TH ELIZABETH BEFORE ABSTRACTED.

18th Jan., 45th Elizabeth, (1602).

Counterpart of Grant in fee farm made between said George Snigg and the other grantees named in the abstracted Letters Patent of the 45th Elizabeth of the one part and John Cuffe and John Griffith of the other part.

It is Witnessed that said Snygg and others in cons'on of £20 Did grant enfeoff and confirm unto said Cuffe and Griffith their Heirs and Ass'ns. in fee farm forever.

The Tenement in Baldwin Street and also the Tenement in Fisher Lane which were comprized in said Grant from Queen Elizabeth.

To Hold unto and to the use of said Cuffe and Griffith their heirs and Ass'ns in fee farm forever yielding and paying to said Snygg and others their Heirs and Ass's. for the Tenement in Baldwin Street the yearly rent of 40s. and for the tenement in Fisher Lane the yearly rent of 16s.

Covt. by the grantees to repair.

Same Date. Counterpart of a similar Grant in fee farm in cons'on (consideration) of £30 to John Andros of the Tenement in Wine Street comprized in the abstracted Letters Patent of the 45th Elizabeth at the yearly rent of £3 6s. 8d.

Cov't. by the grantees to pay all quit Rents issuing out of the premises that is to say to the Dean and Chapter of Bristol 16s. and such quit rent due yearly to the Queen her Heirs and Successors forever.

22nd July, 4th James 1st, (1605). Counterpart Grant in feefarm made between Sir George Snygg Knight one of the Barons of the Court of Exchequer and others of the one part and Lawrence Wilson of Bristol Tailor of the other part. It is Witnessed that said Snygg and others did grant enfeoff and confirm to said Lawrence Wilson his Heirs and Ass's. in feefarm for ever, their 2 gardens with the Appurt's situate in the suburbs of the City of Bristol in the parish of St. James. To hold unto and to the use and also a right of way of said Lawrence Wilson their Heirs and Ass's in feefarm for ever. Yielding and paying to said Snygg and others their Heirs and Ass'ns the yearly rent of 12d.

Same Date. Counterpart of a similar Grant in feefarm from the same grantors to Thomas Cole of a Garden in said parish of St. James and right of way at the yearly rent of 12d.

22nd March 7th Charles 1st (1631). Ind're made between Henry Hobson of the City of Bristol Inn Holder of the one part and William Hunt, Thomas Cowley and others described as feoffees of all the lands and Tenements belonging to the Company of Merchant Tailors within said City of the other part.

After reciting that John Wilson of Bristol Tailor being seized in fee of 2 Mess'es with the appurt's situate in or near a place in the parish of Saint James in the suburbs of the City of Bristol called the Barrs otherwise King Street by his will dated 19th March 1587 did give the same 2 Messuages in these words following:

"Item. I give to the poor of the Almhouse of the Tailors in Bristol after my wife's decease out of this world two Tenements of 8s. a piece next to Mr. Parfitt's garden."

And that said Henry Hobson not knowing of the same gift did purchase the same 2 Mess's in fee alia for a valuable Cons'on of said Thomas Cowley as by deed of feoffment from Cowley to Hobson Dated 19th July 17th King James and a fine between said Hobson plt'f. and said Cowley defend't in the 18th of King James would appear at the time of which purchase the said 2 Messuages were in ruin and scarcely of the value of 8s. a piece per annum. And that said Henry Hobson had improved the same to a better value. And that a Commission about two years then since issued out of the Court of Chancery to the Mayor and Lord Bishop of Bristol and other Commissioners for the enquiry of Concealments and Misemployments of lands and other things given to Charitable uses within said City of Bristol. By virtue of which commission said Henry Hobson was called before the said commissioners concerning the gift aforesaid at which time altho' it appeared to the commissioners that he and his Heirs in Law enjoyed the same 2 Mess'es to his and their own use, Yet he was content at the request of said commissioners to be ordered by them to pay 16s. per annum for ever out of the same Mess'es towards the relief of the poor people for the time being of the Almshouse aforesaid. And said Henry Hobson and his Heirs to hold and enjoy the same two Mess'es charged with the same yearly payment which was by the said commissioners ordered accordingly and because said commission was not returned. And said Henry Hobson was desirous not only to settle said 16s. per annum but also to add 4s. per annum more for the relief of the poor people of the Alms House.

It was witnessed that said Henry Hobson did grant to said Hunt and others their Heirs and Ass.

This Rent charge of 20/- now forms part of the property of the Compy. See the Commis'rs Report pa 562 Saint James' Parish.

One yearly rent charge of 20/- issuable out of said 2 messuages. To hold to said Wm. Hunt and others their Heirs and Ass. for ever to the use and intent that said Hunt and others their Heirs and Ass. should yearly for ever bestow same rent charge of 20/- towards the relief and maintenance of the poor people for the time being that should be placed and inhabit in the Almshouse aforesaid. Power of Distress on nonpayment by 20 days and of entry on nonpayment by 30 days.

Proviso that if said Henry Hobson his Heirs or Ass. should at any time thereafter be by law sued or molested for said 2 mess'es touching the gift or devise of said John Wilson and should not be sufficiently saved harmless by said Wm. Hunt and others their Heirs or Ass. the abstracted Ind're should be void.

Ind're between Sir Robert Cann Knight and certain aldermen Sheriffs and Members of the Common Council of the City of Bristol of the one part and John Richardson Master of the Society and Compy of Merchant Tailors and other persons described as surviving feoffees of the land, &c. belonging to the same Compy. the other part.

23rd Dec. (1673).

After reciting that at a Meeting of the Common Council of the same City a Committee was chosen to treat with all parties interested in the Lamb Inn and other Houses adjoining and belonging (being the inheritance thereto of said Society and Compy of Merchant Tailors) for purchasing the same in order to widen the street, &c. which committee having proposed the same at a general meeting of the Society of Merchant Tailors whereupon the master and 4 others of the same Company were appointed a Committee to treat with the Common Council touching the same which committee of Merchant Tailors promised that the City should have the refusal thereof. And afterwards contracted to grant a long lease thereof to one James Friend which if done would tend to the great prejudice of said Compy in general and contrary to their promise to the great injury of the

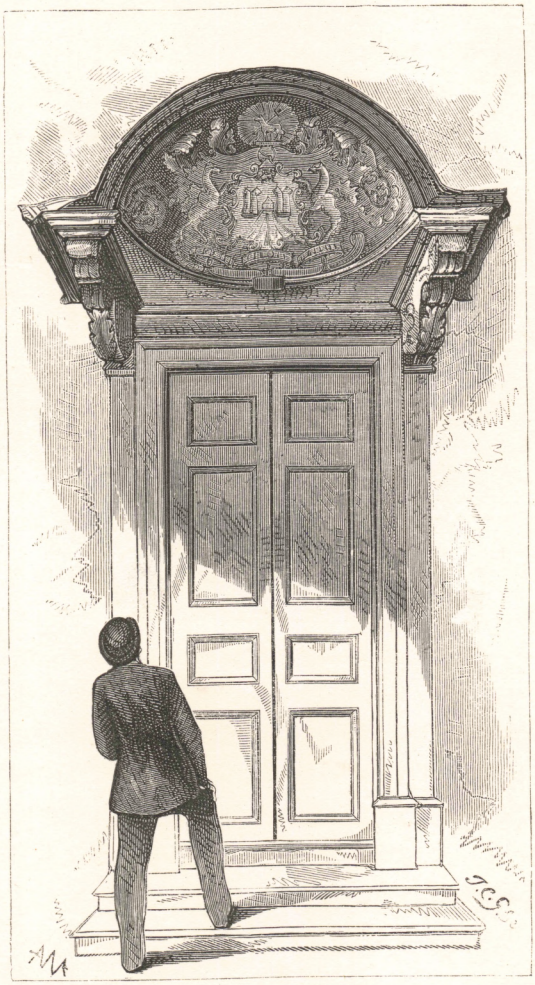
poor of said Compy in their Almshouse and elsewhere the (Revenue thereof being towards their maintenance) and to the great contempt of the government of the City who were the proper judges for removal of Public Nuisances and authorized to oversee and order the right employment of lands given to charitable uses. And after stating that the feoffees had in order that the good intentions of said Common Council for the public good of the City in general and for the greater benefit of the poor of the said Compy in particular in the purchase of said Inn might not be retarded granted a demise of the premises in pursuance of said contract to said Sir Robert Cann and others for the term of 75 years.

It is declared and agreed the feoffees and also the Company of Merchant Tailors should be saved harmless by the lessees and by the Mayor Burgesses and Commonalty of Bristol against all claims and demands to be made by said Friend or any person claiming under him touching his pretended contract for the purchase of said Inn or Lands.

16th May, (1674). Release from said James Friend to said Society and Compy from the contract made with him as mentioned in the last abstracted instrument and from all claims &c. in respect thereof.

ABSTRACT OF THE GENERAL FEOFFMENTS OF THE LANDS, &c. BELONGING TO THE COMPANY MADE SUBJECT TO THE LETTERS PATENT OF THE 45TH ELIZTH AND ALL APPEARING AMONG THE RECORDS OF THE COMPANY.

10th May. 6th Charles 1st (1630). The names of the Feoffees in this Deed appear in the Grant from Queen Eliz'th. Indenture of Feoffment made between said John Cole Robert Curtes Thomas Cowley Edwd. Saunders and John Watkins Tailors described as surviving feoffees of all the lands, &c., belonging to the Society and Compy of Merchant Tailors within the City of Bristol of the one part and Peter Miller Richard Aldworth and John Younge of the City of Bristol Mercers of the other Part. It is Witness'd that said feoffees in cons'on that said



Door of Merchant Taylor's Hall.

Peter Miller, etc., should with all convenient speed re-enfeoff the lands, etc., after ment'd unto such persons of said Comp'y as should be thought expedient by Thomas Walford then Master of said Society and others of that Compy Did with one assent and consent grant bargain sell enfeoff and confirm unto said Miller Aldworth and Younge their Heirs and Ass's for ever.

All that great Messuage or Tenement with the appurt's then enjoyed as two lying in Broad Street within the Parish of St John the Baptist in Bristol aforesaid together with one Tenement within the same called and known by the name of the Tailors Hall and a great yard or pavement and garden thereunto adjoining which said great Messuage or Tenement then was or of late was in the several possessions of the persons therein named. And all those three Messuages or Tenements with the Appurt's lying in Temple Street then in the occupation of the Persons therein named. One other Messuage or Tenement with the Appurt's then used as an Inn or Tavern, called or known by the name of the Lamb lying in Tucker Street then or late in the tenure of William Thrup Vintner and some part in the occupation of Taylors widow. One Tenement with the Appurt's lying in Baldwin Street within the said City then or late in the tenure of James Oliver. One other Tenement with the Appurt's lying in Fisher Lane then or late in the possession of Henry Morgan. And one Tenement Cellar and Sollar lying upon the key then or late in the possession of John Modey. One other Tenement with the Appurt's lying in Broad Street then or late in the holding of Thomas Gwinnall Pewterer. One other Mess'e or Tenement with the Appurt's lying in Wine Street then or late in the occupation of William Yeamans Notary Public, All that Almshouse or Houses and two Tenements adjoining and lying in Marshall Street in the parish of Saint James in the occupation of several Poor People and Thomas Hughes and Andrew Northren. Four small Tenements or Houses and four Gardens with their Appurt's lying in King Street in the Parish of St James then or late in the several occupations of Henry

This Tailors Hall was not mention'd in the Letters Patent of the 45th Eliz'th.

Hobson, John Cole, Margaret Jones, Thomas Cowley, the Proctors of St. Peter's and Pascil Gayland. Three Tenements lying in Broad Mead in the same Parish of St James in the several tenures therein mention'd One other Tenement with the Appurt's lying in the High Street then or late in the possession of Thomas Griffiths Goldsmith ; Two Tenements with their Appurt's in the parish of St Mary Port then or late in the occupation of the persons therein named. And one Garden lying near Monksbridge in St Johns Parish then or late in the occupation of Robert Steward. And all Orchards Gardens Ways and Heredit's to the same several premises belonging and appertaining. And all Rents and services issuing out of them or any of them which were or formerly had been due and payable in anywise to the said Compy, together with all others The Lands Tenements Gardens Rents Revenues Services and Heredit's whats'r of them said feoffees lying in said City of Bristol and which theretofore were settled and assured unto them and others of the said Society and Company of Merchant Tailors aforesaid by Letters Patent under the Great Seal of England made and granted by the late Queen Elizabeth or otherwise. To hold unto and to the use of said Miller, Aldworth and Younge their Heirs and Ass'ns for ever.

Livery of Seizin Indorsed.

6th June 6th Charles 1st (1630). Ind're of feoffment made between said Miller Aldworth and Younge of the one part and Thomas Walford described as Master of the Society and Compy of Merchant Tailors within said City and 19 other persons described as of the same City and Compy of Merchant Tailors of the other part.

After reciting the last feoffment It is witnessed that said Miller Aldworth and Younge in performance of the Trust in them reposed, granted and enfeoffed to said Walford and others their Heirs and Ass'ns the premises comprized in the last abstracted feoffment. To hold the same unto said Walford and others the Heirs Ass'ns for ever, To

the use of said Society and Company their Successors and Ass'ns for ever.

Livery of Seizin Indorsed.

23rd May, Charles 1st, (1647).

The names of these persons appear amongst the feoffees in the last abstracted feoffment.

Ind're of feoffment made between Roger Hart and five other persons described as surviving feoffees of all the lands, &c., belonging to the Compy. and Corporation of Merchant Tailors within the City of Bristol of the one part and John Lloyd and two other persons of the other part.

It is Witnessed that said Roger Hart, &c., did grant and enfeoff unto said Lloyd, &c., their Heirs and Assn's. said great Messuage called the Tailor's Hall and all other the Lands Tenements and Hered'ts. belonging to said Company. To hold unto said Lloyd and others their Heirs and Ass'ns. Upon Cons'on Trust and Confidence that they should re-enfeoff the same unto James Rowbotham then Master of said Company Roger Hart Anthony Bassett and others of the same Company and Corporation of Merchant Tailors their Heirs and Ass'ns.

Livery of Seizin Indorsed.

24th same May, Charles 1st, (1647).

Ind're of Feoffment made between said John Lloyd and others of the one part and James Rowbotham described as then Master of the Society and Compy. of Merchant Tailors within said City of Bristol and 19 other persons described as freemen of the said Compy. of the other part.

After reciting the last abstracted feoffment It is Witnessed that said Lloyd and others in discharge of the Trust in them reposed, did grant and enfeoff unto said Rowbotham and others The premises comprized in the abstracted feoffment setting forth a particular description thereof referring to the grant from Queen Elizabeth.

To hold the same unto said Rowbotham and others their Heirs and Ass'ns.

To the use of the said Society and Compy. their Successors and Ass'ns. for ever more.

Livery of Seizin Indorsed.

1st Jany., 14th Charles 2nd (1662). The names of these persons appear amongst the feoffees in the last abstracted feoffment.

Ind're of Feoffment made between Anthony Bassett and 7 other persons described as surviving feoffees of all the lands, &c., belonging to the Compy. and Corporation of Merchant Tailors within the City of Bristol of the one part and JohnWalter and 2 other persons of the other part.

It is Witnessed that said Anthony Bassett Did grant and enfeoff unto said Walter, &c., said Great Messuage called the Tailors' Hall and all other the lands &c. belonging to said Company.

To hold unto said Walter and others their Heirs and Ass'ns upon Trust to re-enfeoff the same unto Richard Benson then Master of said Compy. and others of the same Compy. and Corporation of Merchant Tailors their Heirs and Ass'ns.

Livery of Seizin Indorsed.

3rd same January.

Ind're of Feoffment made between said John Walter and others of the one part and said Richard Benson described as the then Master of Society and Company of Merchant Tailors within said City of Bristol and 28 other persons described as freemen of said Compy. of the other part.

After reciting the last abstracted feoffment it is witnessed that said Walter and others in discharge of the trust in them reposed Did grant and enfeoff unto said Benson and others the premises belonging to the Company setting forth a particular description and referring to the Grant from Queen Elizabeth to hold unto said Benson and others their Heirs and Ass'ns to the use of said Society and Compy. their Successors and Ass'ns for ever.

Livery of Seizin Indorsed.

26th Feby., 35th Charles 2nd, (1682). The names of these persons appear amongst the feoffees in the last abstracted feoffment.

Ind're of feoffment made between Richard Hayward and 9 other persons described as surviving feoffees of all the lands &c. belonging to said Society and Compy. of Merchant Tailors of the one part and George White and John Gray of the other part. It is witnessed that said surviving

feoffees did grant enfeoff and release to said White and Gray and their heirs, all the lands tenements rents and heredit's belonging to the Company; setting forth a particular description thereof, and referring to the Grant from Queen Elizabeth, to hold unto and to the use of said White and Gray their Heirs and Ass'ns for ever.

Upon trust to grant and convey the same to Abraham Weare then Master of said Society and Company Richard Hayward and Robert Legge and others of the said Compy to the use of said Society and Compy their Successors and Ass'ns for ever.

27th Feb., (1682). Indre of Feoffment made between said White and Gray of the one part and said Abraham Weare described as Master of the said Society and Compy of Merchant Tailors and said Richard Hayward Robert Legge and others of the other part

It is witnessed that said White and Gray in pursuance of the Trust reposed in them by the last abstracted Ind're did grant and enfeoff to said Abraham Weare and others and their Heirs The Hed'its comprised in the last abstracted Indenture.

To hold unto said Abraham Weare and others their Heirs and Ass'ns to the use of said Society and Compy and their successors and Ass'ns for ever. The Deed then contains a Covenant by said Abraham Weare and others with said White and Gray for the performance of the Trust contained in the last abstracted Ind're which are set forth in the same words in the abstracted feoffment.

10th April 4th Anne (1705) The names of these persons appear amongst the feoffees in the last abstracted feoffment Indenture of feoffment made between Sir John Dudleston Bart and 9 other persons described as surviving feoffees of all the messuages lands &c. belonging to said Society and Compy of Merchant Tailors of the one part and Robert White and Humphrey Corsley of the other part.

It is witnessed that said surviving feoffees Did grant enfeoff and release to said White and Corsley and their Heirs, All the lands tenements rents and H'dts belonging to the Company; setting forth a particular description thereof and referring to the grant from Queen Eliz'th;—N.B. In

NB.—The Almsho' had been rebuilt in 1701 and one of the adjoin'g houses added to it whereby it was so enlarged as to accommodate 9 poor people.

this Deed the Marshall Street Premises included the Almshouse thus described. And also all those 2 Tenem'ts and Gardens thereto adjoining one whereof is lately added to the Almshouse there lying in Marshall Street in the said Parish of St James and the other now in the occupat'n of William Wyndowe. And also all that new erected Almshouse Rooms or Houses with Gardens thereto belonging situate and being in Marshall street aforesaid in the occupation of 9 several poor people.

To Hold unto and to the use of said White and Corsley their Heirs and Assi'ns for ever. Upon Trust to Grant and convey the same unto John Shepherd and 37 other persons Described as Masters Wardens and Freemen of said Compy. To the Use and Behoof of said Society and Company their Successors and Ass'ns for ever.

N.B. *The feoffment or reconveyance made to the new feoffees in pursuance of the last abstracted feoffment is not to be found.*

Ind'res of 13th and 14th June (1726). The names of these persons appear amongst the intended feoffees in the last abstracted Ind're.

Lease and Release made between Marmaduke Williams the Elder and 9 other Persons described as surviving feoffees of all the Mess'es Lands, etc., belonging to the said Society and Compy of Merchant Tailors of the one part and John Brickdale and John Bartlett of the other part.

It is witnessed that said surviving feoffees Did grant and release unto said Brickdale and Bartlett and their Heirs All the Lands Tenements Rents and H'dts belonging to the Company setting forth a particular Description thereof and referring to the Grant from Queen Elizabeth. To Hold unto said Brickdale and Bartlett their Heirs and Ass'ns. Upon Trust to grant and convey the same to Richard Muspratt and 32 other persons described as free members of said Society or Compy To the Use of said Society and Company their Successors and Ass'ns for ever.

Ind'res of 15th and 16th same June. Lease and Release made between said Brickdale and Bartlett of the one part and said Richard Muspratt and others of the other part.

It is witnessed that said Brickdale and Bartlett in performance of the Trust in them reposed by the last abstracted Lease and Release, Did grant and release to said Richard Muspratt and others their Heirs and Ass'ns, the Heredit's comprized in the last abstracted Ind'res of Lease and Release. To Hold unto said Richard Muspratt and others their Heirs and to the Use and Behoof of said Society and Company their Successors and Ass'ns for ever.

1st and 2nd June (1761). The names of these persons appear amongst the feoffees in the last abstracted release. Ind'es of Lease and Release made between William Andrewes and 5 other persons described as surviving feoffees of all the lands, etc., belonging to said Society and Company of Merchant Tailors of the one part and John Deverell and John Palmer the younger of the other part.

It is Witnessed that said surviving feoffees Did release to said Deverell and Palmer their Heirs and Ass'ns, All the Lands Tenements rents and H'dts belonging to the Company, setting forth a particular Description thereof referring to the grant from Queen Elizabeth. To Hold unto said Deverell and Palmer the younger their Heirs and Ass'ns, upon Trust to convey the same unto said William Andrewes and 30 other persons described as Masters and Freemen of the said Society Company. To the Use of said Society and Compy their Successors and Ass'ns for ever.

Ind'res of 3rd and 4th same June. Lease and Release made between said Deverell and Palmer the younger of the one part and said William Andrewes of the other part.

It is Witnessed that said Deverell and Palmer in pursuance of the Trust in them reposed by the last abstracted lease and release Did grant and release to said William Andrewes and others their Heirs and Assn's, the He'dts. comprised in the last abstracted Ind're of Lease and

Release to hold unto said Andrewes and others their Heirs and Assn's, To the use of said Society their Successors and Assi'ns for ever.

By In'dres. of Lease and Release Arthur Palmer described as Master of the Compy. of Merchant Tailors within the City of Bristol and Robert Bayley Esq. and John Showell Mercht. Tailors described as surviving feoffees of all the Mess'es lands, &c. belonging to said Society or Company released and conveyed to William Hare Gent'n. and Henry Browne Jeweller, both of Bristol their Heirs and Ass'ns, All the H'dts. belonging to said Society or Company by the description set forth in the next abstracted Re-conveyance from Hare and Browne. In trust to be by them conveyed to the new feoffees therein named and which was done by the next abstracted Ind'res.

1st and 2nd Jan., (1802). Their names appear amongst the feoffees in the last abstracted Release.

Ind'res. of Lease and Release made between said Hare and Browne of the one part and Arthur Palmer Gent'n. Master of the Society or Compy. of Merchant Tailors within the City of Bristol Isaac Amos gentleman late Master of the said Compy. John Showell Mercht. Tailor and a Freeman of said Compy. Robert Norton a freeman of the said Compy. John Jordan Palmer Broker Son of the said Arthur Palmer; and Arthur Palmer the younger son of the said Arthur Palmer; Arthur Palmer Palmer Grandson of the said Arthur Palmer the Elder, Thomas Andrewes of the Custom House Gent'n. William Fripp Esq. Daniel Wait the younger Esquire Samuel Birch Esquire Josiah Greathead Banker, John Purnell Insurance Broker; John Wait Grocer; and James Whittaker haberdasher, all of the City of Bristol of the other part.

4th and 5th same January.

1 Arthur Palmer, 2 Arthur Palmer, 3 Wm. Fripp, 4 Samuel Birch, the only 4 feoffees alive all the rest having died.

It is Witnessed that said Hare and Browne in pursuance of the Trust in them reposed by the last abstracted Lease and Release did grant release and confirm unto the several parties of the 2nd Part. All the Property of the Company by the following description.

To Hold the same unto said Parties of the 2nd Part their Heirs and Assi'ns for ever.

To the only proper Use and Behoof of the said Society and Company and their Successors and Assigns for ever. Subject nevertheless to the following Rules Regulations Provisoes and Agreements.

See p. 560 of the Comm's of Charities Report.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE LORDS COMMISSIONERS OF HIS MAJESTY'S TREASURY.

The humble Memorial of Arthur Palmer the elder Arthur Palmer the younger Samuel Birch and William Henry Marshall all residing in or near City of Bristol

SHEWETH

THAT on or about the 11th day of February 1829 your Memorialists together with William Fripp since deceased presented to the Right Honorable the Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury a Memorial a Copy whereof accompanies this Memorial

That on or about the 17th February 1830 Messrs Arthur Palmer & Son the Solicitors of the Memorialists received a Letter from Mr. J. Stewart whereof the following is a Copy. "Treasury Chambers 16 Feby. 1830 "Gent'n. The Lords Commissioners of his Majesty's Treasury having had "under consideration your Memorial of 11th February last respecting "certain Lands supposed to have escheated to the Crown on the dissolution "of the Merchant Tailors' Company at Bristol, I have it in command to

"acquaint you that my Lords have taken the Opinion of the Law Officers "of the Crown on your Application and have desired them to state their "Opinion whether supposing the facts stated in the Memorial can be sub- "stantiated by Evidence all or any and what Part of the Property in "Question has escheated to the Crown and by reason of what event and "whether it will be proper for the Lords of his Majesty's Treasury to direct "that a Commission should be issued at the Crown's expence to find the "Title of the Crown. To which the Law Officers have answered if the "Society of Merchant Tailors was a Corporation we should think it proper "to issue a Commission in this Case because the Corporation being extinct, "the real Estate would come to the Crown if there could be found no Heir "of the original Owners. But the fact of this Company having been a "Corporation is very doubtful and we should rather infer that it was not "a Corporation from the estates being conveyed to Trustees and in that "case we should not recommend the issuing a Commission. It may be "desirable that a further Investigation should take place for the benefit of "the Parties interested but we cannot recommend that this Investigation "should be at the expence of the Crown unless in the result it should "appear that the Crown has an Interest. Under these Circumstances my "Lords decline taking any Measures in the Matter. I am Gentn. yr. obent. "Servt. J. Stewart."

That when the said Memorial was presented the Memorialists did not apprehend that under the Circumstances of the Case it would be necessary as a preliminary to the Grant thereby prayed that a Commission should be issued to find a Title in the Crown And the Memorialists therefore did not think it necessary to state in their Memorial the Evidence upon which they had been led to the conclusion that the Society of Merchant Tailors was a Corporation or the Evidence which on the other hand rendered such Conclusion doubtful because the Object of the Memorialists was to obtain for the benefit of the Charity therein mentioned a Grant from the Crown of such of the Estates therein mentioned if any as had escheated whereby

the legal Estate of the Memorialists Arthur Palmer the Elder Arthur Palmer the Younger William Fripp and Samuel Birch to the Property in Question, would have been established inasmuch as the same if escheated to the Crown would have passed by such Grant and if not escheated would have been in them as surviving Trustees of the Indenture of the 5th January 1802 mentioned in the Memorial.

That your Memorialists are willing to submit to your Lordships or to the legal Advisers of the Crown if your Lordships shall think it necessary such Evidence as is in their Possession tending to shew either that the Society of Merchant Tailors was or that it was not a legal Corporation but your Memorialists trust that upon Reconsideration of the Case your Lordships will be of Opinion that you can properly advise his Majesty without any previous Enquiry into the Title of the Crown to grant such and such parts if any of the Hereditaments and premises comprized in the Indentures of the 4th and 5th January 1802 as may have escheated to his Majesty and the Rents Issues and Profits thereof accrued since the Escheat thereof if any to your Memorialists Arthur Palmer the Elder and Samuel Birch (now two of the three surviving Trustees of such Indentures your Memorialist Arthur Palmer the younger being desirous of not being a Trustee) either alone or jointly with your Memorialist William Henry Marshall and such other Trustees or Trustee as to his Majesty shall seem fit Upon Trust for the support of the Almshouse and of the poor Persons now residing therein and hereafter by the Trustees for the time being to be placed therein according to a Scheme to be approved of by his Majesty's High Court of Chancery under a Petition to be for that purpose presented (and which your Memorialists Arthur Palmer the Elder and Samuel Birch undertake thereupon to present) under the Act of the 52 Geo. 3rd C. 101 intitled "An Act to provide a summary Remedy in Cases of abuses of trusts "created for Charitable purposes."

That in consequence of the uncertainty which rests upon the Title many of the Tenants of the said Estates have refused to acknowledge your Memorialists Arthur Palmer the Elder, Arthur Palmer the younger and

Samuel Birch as Landlords or to pay Rent to any Person whomsoever and your said Memorialists are apprehensive of being involved personally in Costs should they litigate the question with such Tenants And your Memorialist William Henry Marshall cannot safely apply the Rents and Profits which he has received or may receive from Tenants willing to pay without the Direction of the Court of Chancery which direction cannot (as your Memorialists are advised) be obtained without litigating the Title of the Crown and your Memorialists cannot litigate the Title of the Crown without incurring the risk of the Costs falling upon themselves personally in the event of a decision for the Crown.

That your Memorialists are the more apprehensive of relying on any Title in themselves to the said Property because they find among the Documents of the Company a Case laid before Mr. Dunning in the year 1773 on which he wrote an Opinion purporting among other things that he thought the Company could support themselves as a Corporation by Prescription and your Memorialists are apprehensive that the Property or the principal part thereof will be ultimately lost to the Charity unless the Crown will afford to your Memorialists its assistance so as to perfect a Title in them.

Your Memorialists therefore pray your Lordships to take the Matter again into your Lordship's consideration and without any previous Commission of Escheat to intercede with his Majesty to grant such and such parts if any of the Hereditaments and Premises comprized in the said Indentures of the 4th and 5th January 1802 as may have escheated to his Majesty and the Rents Issues and Profits thereof accrued since such Escheat to your Memorialists Arthur Palmer the Elder and Samuel Birch either alone or jointly with your Memorialist William Henry Marshall and such other Trustees or Trustee as to his Majesty shall seem fit Upon Trust for the Support of the Almhouse mentioned in their said former Memorial and of the poor Persons now residing therein and hereafter by the Trustees for the time being to be placed therein according to

a scheme to be approved of by His Majesty's High Court of Chancery upon a petition to be presented for that purpose as aforesaid.

Or in case your Lordships shall not think yourselves justified in giving such Advice to His Majesty without a previous commission of Escheat then that your Lordships will be pleased to permit your Memorialists to leave with your Lordships or with your Solicitors the Case so as aforesaid laid before Mr. Dunning with his Opinion thereupon and such other Evidence as your Memorialists have discovered relating to the Question whether the said Company of Merchant Tailors was a legal Corporation and that your Lordships would direct the same to be submitted to the Law Officers of the Crown for their further opinion as to the propriety and expediency of a Commission being issued to find the Title in the Crown.

Or that your Lordships would be pleased to take such other steps in concurrence with your Memorialists as will preserve and set on foot the said Charity.

And your Memorialists will ever pray &c.

Bristol January 1832.

(Signed) Arthur Palmer.
Arthur Palmer Jr.
Samuel Birch.
W. H. Marshall.

Palmer & Son
Bristol
Solicitors for the Memorialists.

SECUNDA PARS PATENT. DE ANNO REGNI REGIS RICARDI SECUNDI VICESIMO SECUNDO. M. 32.

Rex Omnibus ad quos etc., Salutem.

Sciatis quod cum Johannes Thorp et Johannes Thorp Burgenses Ville nostre Bristoll, quandam Capellam infra Villam nostram predictam in honore Dei et Sancti Joh'is Baptiste ad intencionem inveniendi ibidem quendam Capellanum divina pro salubri statu nostro et carissime Consortis nostre Regine dum vixerimus ac animabus nostris cum ab hac luce migraverimus necnon animabus progenitorum nostrorum et omnium fidelium defunctorum et pro fratribus cujusdam fraternitatis ibidem pro perpetuo fundande ordinande et incorporande in perpetuum celebraturum fundaverint ut accepimus.

Nos de gratia nostra speciali concessimus et licenciam dedimus pro nobis et heredibus nostris quantum in nobis est eisdem Johanni et Johanni quod ipsi quandam fraternitatem imperpetuum duraturam infra Capellam predictam in honore Dei et Sancti Johannis Baptiste fundare valeant ordinare et incorparare ac quendam Custodem fraternitatis predicte ordinare.

Quodque ipsi qui Custodes erunt et confratres fraternitatis predicte per eorum communem assensum quendam Custodem ejusdem fraternitatis singulis vicibus eligere valeant prout sibi placuerit et fore viderint faciendum.

Necnon quod ipsi terras tenementa et redditus ad valorem centum solidorum per annum pro sustentacione dicti Capellani et successorum suorum ex causa predicta adquirere et ea sic adquisita ad sustentacionem dicti Capellani usque valorem centum solidorum per annum predictorum eisdem Custodi et Confratribus et Successoribus suis Custodibus et Confratribus fraternitatis predicte imperpetuum tenere ac insuper dictam

fraternitatem habere et ea cum omnibus bonis usibus ac ordinacionibus probabilibus et acceptabilibus dicte fraternitate ordinand. gaudere valeant absque perturbacione seu impeticione nostri vel heredum nostrorum aut Ministrorum nostrorum quorumcumque Statuto de terris et tenementis ad manum mortuam non ponendis edito et aliis statutis seu ordinacionibus quibuscumque incontrarium factis non obstantibus.

In Cujus, &c., Testi Rege, apud Westmonasterium XVI die Octobris.

Per breve de privato Sigillo et pro Viginti et quinque Marcis solutis in Hanaperio.

This is a true copy from the original Record remaining in the Tower of London having been examined.

HENRY ROOKE

SEAL OF THE MERCHANT TAILORS' COMPANY.

FOX.—On May 30, at Yate House, Yate, Francis Frederick Fox, in his 83rd year. Funeral at 3 o'clock on Thursday, at Arno's Vale.

1915

Note: The following newspaper clippings concerning the death and burial of Francis Fox were pasted on to the blank front pages of the original. They have been moved to the back in this e-publication.

NOTES OF THE DAY

TIMES AND MIRROR OFFICE,

Tuesday Morning.

Mr. Francis Frederick Fox, whose death at Yate House is reported to-day, was until advanced age came upon him one of the most active men in public affairs of this city. He was Sheriff in 1880, and was an alderman for two periods, viz., 1865-1871 and 1875-1902. He was never a councillor, and he was the last survivor of the aldermen chosen in 1865, the others being Richard Robinson, Robert Phippen, Thomas Green, Thomas Proctor, James Ford, Robert Henry Webb, and William Naish.

Mr. Naish was the one Liberal in the group, and all the others were re-elected, some having been many years on the bench of aldermen. The last of the aldermen who had been elected to the bench without first serving a term as a councillor was Mr. C. W. Cope-Proctor, who retired from the Council in November 1913 after thirty-five years of unbroken and much-valued service. It is now become an unwritten rule that a candidate for the alderman's gown must have been through the joys and troubles of popular election at the hands of the ratepayers, and usually, but not invariably, the candidate with the greatest share of them to his credit is promoted. That unwritten rule may sometimes keep a useful man out of the Council Chamber, but it is reckoned that the gains outweigh the losses. At any rate that is the reckoning of those who are councillors.

Mr. Fox was once leader of the Conservative party in Bristol, and there are many members of that party, and, indeed of the Liberal party too, who remembe his keenness in the cause and his unvarying courtesy. His was not a fiery spirit, but he could hold his own in debate in a few polished sentences. His speeches, whether on Imperial or municipal politics were distinguished by his choice diction and their fairness to opposite views. He would never intervene in debate unless he could add something to it which was worth having, and sometimes his suggestions were immediately recognised as the best and wisest.

June 1st 1915

One notable instance comes to mind. Mr. Fox was in the Council Chamber when important dock questions were bandied backwards and forwards, and it was he who made the happy suggestion that the Mayor of the day (Sir J. D. Weston) should try to bring an end to the ruinous competition with the outer docks. The Council jumped at the idea. Sir Joseph rather timidly approached the task, but such was his personal popularity that the success which followed was confidently expected. A truce over the dues was quickly arranged, and it was in the course of the speeches of congratulation that the late Alderman C. B. Hare used one of the last classic quotations ever heard in the Council Chamber—Amantium iræ amoris integratio est. The patching up of the lovers' quarrel ended in a union, and two and a half years later Alderman Fox presided over a banquet given to the Mayor (as Sir J. D. Weston was still) to celebrate the successful purchase of the outer docks.

A common remark descriptive of Mr. Fox was that "he is one of the old-fashioned bookish merchants." And it was true. At Yate House is a large, well-chosen library which is very strong in local and topographical books. Mr. Fox collected for many years, and would have his treasures bound to suit his cultured taste when re-binding was necessary. He bought local MSS. as opportunity offered, and one of his most interesting purchases in that line was Adams's Chronicle. He delighted his fellow-antiquaries by allowing it to be translated and a few copies to be printed. He was an ideal chairman of the Municipal Libraries Committee.

While he was Sheriff Mr. Fox printed in choice form for private circulation a history of the Merchant Taylors of Bristol. He was one of the earliest members of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society, and for many years he was president of the Council of the society, doing excellent service in that capacity. It was Mr. Fox who, more than any other man, encouraged John Latimer to persevere with his work as the annalist of Bristol. And we owe to Mr. Fox the printing of the Little Red Book of Bristol, a most interesting record of the city in the Middle Ages. A man of great public spirit, supporter of many good causes, a courteous gentleman, and a true book-lover, Mr. Fox has passed hence leaving behind him a fragrant memory which will not soon fade.

THE LATE MR. F. F. FOX.

FUNERAL AT ARNO'S VALE CEMETERY.

The funeral of Mr. Francis Frederick Fox, who passed away at Yate House on Sunday in his 83rd year, took place yesterday afternoon at Arno's Vale Cemetery. At Yate House the coffin was placed in a motor hearse for conveyance to Bristol. The hearse was preceded by a motor-car draped in purple, and bearing a large number of the many beautiful floral tributes which were sent.

The funeral, which was of a simple and impressive character, was attended by a numerous and representative gathering. A brief service was held in the cemetery chapel, the officiating clergy there and at the graveside being the Rev. Cyril Norton, vicar of St. Jude's; the Rev. W. H. P. Harvey, vicar of Chipping Sodbury; and the Rev. J. M. Ford, rector of Yate.

The principal mourners were Mr. R. A. Fox (son), Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Long Fox, Mrs. Dymond, sen., Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Dymond, Mr. Walter Wells, Mr. Frank Wells, Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Stileman, Mr. Ernest Fox, Mr. Tom King, Miss A. E. King, Miss L. King, Mr. Mervyn King, Captain and Mrs. Leonard Taylor, Mrs. Bonville Fox, Major Wilson Fox (12th Gloucesters), the Rev. Herbert Poole King, Dr. and Mrs. Watson Williams, and Mr. and Mrs. Ray Brown.

Amongst those also present were Sir Edward B. James, Colonel Sir Arthur Anstice (Dymock, Glos.), Colonel Burges and Captain Clifford (12th Gloucester), Sir George White, Bart. (president), and Messrs. J. N. C. Pope, H. W. L. Harford, and C. W. Wasbrough (representing the Bristol Royal Infirmary), Mr. Edward Feltham (junior partner of Messrs. Francis F. Fox and Co.), Mr. Henry Feltham, Mr. Charles F. Whittuck, Mr. Francis G. Whittuck, Messrs. John E. Pritchard (vice-president), Francis Were, James Baker, and Charles Wells (members of Council of the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archæological Society), Mr. Richard Lowe (representing Alderman C. J. Lowe), Messrs. Jere Osborne, H. G. Vassall, L. C. Danger, H. Napier Abbot, G. de Lisle Bush, A. Clayfield-Ireland, T. Cartwright, F. A. Jenkins, Edmund King, Walter Frost, Major H. W. K. Wait (127th Battery R.G.A.), Alderman J. Fuller Eberle, Messrs. George Nichols, S. Tryon, H. L. Riseley, G. Palliser Martin (representing Bristol Chamber of Commerce and Bristol East Conservative Association), Mr. William Blair (secretary, Northern Assurance Co.,

Ltd., of which Mr. Fox was a director), H. L. Vaughan, Henry Kinnersley, Philip Smith, E. G. Tyrrell, Lieut. Rhind, R.A.M.C., Messrs. G. T. Gale, Theo. Furze, G. Osmond, J. McPherson, W. Shellard, W. Calway, G. Morley, P. Cox (members of the staff of Messrs. Francis F. Fox and Co.), Mr. W. H. Williams (hon. secretary Soldiers and Sailors Families' Association), the Rev. C. Travers Burges (Frenchay), Mrs. Tuckett (Frenchay), Dr. T. C. Leaman and Mr. Hugh C. Warner (representing the Chipping Sodbury and District Literary Institute, of which Mr. Fox was president), Mr. J. W. Trenfield (clerk to the Chipping Sodbury magistrates), Mr. Leonard Lush, Prof. J. Munro, M.Sc. (vice-principal of Merchant Venturers' Technical College, representing Dr. Wertheimer, the Principal, who had to be in London), Mr. Henry Nash (representing Bristol North Unionist Association), Mr. J. C. Marsh (representing Totterdown Y.M.C.A., of which Mr. Fox was a vice-president and most generous supporter), Messrs. C. George, W. G. Emery, T. D. Smith, A. W. Stunt, and T. G. Lapham. Mr. Laurie Magnus was unavoidably absent.

The floral tributes included those from Mrs. Dymond and Miss J. S. Fox; Richard, William, and Fanny, deceased's grandchildren; a bunch of flowers all mentioned in Shakespeare from Miss A. A. King; Mr. Mervyn King, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor, Mr. and Mrs. Nell, Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Harvey, Anita and Napier Harvey, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Wells, Dr. and Mrs. Watson Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Stileman and Miss Nora Stileman, Mrs. and Miss Tolers, Mrs. Percy King, Herbert Haynes, the managers of Yate Church Schools, the master, mistresses, and scholars of Yate Church Schools, Mr. and Mrs. Magnus, the Bishop of Lewes, Charles and Clara King, Ernest and Alice Fox, the Chipping Sodbury Institute, the Yate Y.M.C.A., the Bristol Conservative and Unionist Association, Miss Janet Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Vassall, Mrs. Hooper and Miss Busfield, Miss Edith Long Fox, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund King; "In grateful remembrance from the teachers of St. Jude's School"; Mrs. F. F. Cartwright, Mrs. Fitzgibbon, Mr. and Mrs. Edmund King, Mr., Mrs., and Miss Ford, Miss King, Miss A. A. King, Miss T. L. King, H. Coles (gardener at Newark Park), the household staff.

The funeral arrangements were entrusted to Mr. C. P. Billing, of Boyce's Avenue, Clifton.

– Bristol Times & Mirror
June 7 1915

Printed by
John Wright & Co.,
Stone Bridge and Host Street,
Bristol.